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Indyk defends PA against Israel's claims of violations

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON – The US yesterday directly contradicted Israel's assertion that the Palestinian Authority has released terrorist killers of Israelis. It also said Israel failed to use elementary child psychology to improve Palestinian attitudes to Israel.

The clash occurred when the embassy's deputy chief of mission, Lenny Ben-David told a Jewish audience that the PA has not adequately complied with the Wye accord, and has freed "known terrorists, murderers," without consulting with the Israelis or Americans, as called for under the agreement.

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk, also seated on the panel organized by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, turned to Ben-David and responded:

"It's very important to be careful about what was said about their compliance or noncompliance. You said they've been releasing terrorists and murderers. That is not true. They did release people. We checked on it. We checked your information. We checked their information, our own information. It is simply not true... The fundamental point is they did not release terrorists or murderers."

Indyk, a former ambassador to Israel, continued: The PA did arrest "a lot of Hamas people" and released those for whom no grounds for detention existed, the same way that Israel releases some suspects it arrests. He conceded the Palestinians did not always consult with Israel and the US on those releases.

But "you've got to be very careful about making those kinds of charges unless you're sure – on sure ground – that they're correct," Indyk continued.

Israel should be encouraging the PA, as parents would utilize "basic psychology" with their children, he said.

"What's the best way to improve their behavior? Is it to beat on them all the time? Or is it to encourage them, to build their confidence in the relationship?" he asked.

When Indyk concluded, Ben-David conceded that the PA may not have released those involved in the killings of American citizens, saying "that is a statement I will not make... But I will state that some of these individuals [released by the PA] planned terrorist attacks," including last year's Mahaneh Yehuda market attack, Ben-David said. "Those who were part of the conspiracy were released."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman, Aviv Bushinsky, said yesterday that Netanyahu has clarified his position to the US adminstration and most recently to Ambassdor Ned Walker.

"The position is and remains that these terrorists were involved in attacks. They may not have pulled a trigger or blown themselves up, but they were accomplices to murder," Bushinsky said.

Meantime, both Ben-David and Ambassador Zalman Shoval, who spoke briefly but had to depart early, justified Israel's suspension of the West Bank redeployment on the grounds that the government refuses to overlook Palestinian shortcomings in carrying out their Wye obligations.

Shoval said Israel is "fed up with partial compliance" and is no longer satisfied with the standards the Palestinians set themselves in exerting their "best efforts" to combat terrorism.

In his discussion of Palestinian compliance, Indyk said in recent weeks, the US has seen a "positive development" in that the PA has "stepped up pro-active efforts to combat the terrorist infrastructure," and that Israeli security services are likewise impressed.

But Indyk also said the PA needs to improve its performance in confiscating illegal weapons and stopping anti-Israel incitement. He said Israel has failed to inaugurate safe-passage routes, open a Gaza seaport and conclude economic negotiations.

Indyk reiterated the Americans' opposition to a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood on May 4, when the interim autonomy period expires, saying such a move "will jeopardize" final-status negotiations.

After seven postponements

Court to hear child conversion petition

By DAN IZENBERG

After seven postponements over the past four years, the High Court of Justice will finally convene today to hear a petition by the Conservative movement and Na'amat, asking it to order the government to register two adopted children converted to Judaism by a Conservative rabbi.

A panel of 11 justices, headed by Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, will hear the petition involving an issue which has split the international Jewish community and pitted Reform and Conservative Jews against the Orthodox here and abroad.

The question is whether the state must recognize the right of Conservative and Reform rabbis in Israel to conduct conversions. The Ministry of Interior refuses to register as Jews people who have converted to Judaism in Israel by non-Orthodox rabbis.

The two children involved in the petition were converted at the Conservative movement's Kibbutz Hanaton in 1995. The families opted for the Conservative movement after representatives of the Chief Rabbinate refused to convert the children unless their parents promised to follow an Orthodox way of life. Twelve families signed the original petition, but 10 of them have since dropped out. Of the two remaining two, one family currently lives in the US.

Haredi leaders – fearing, on the basis of previous decisions, that the justices would rule in favor of the petitioners – demanded that the government of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu pass a law explicitly backing the Orthodox monopoly. This, in turn, led to an outcry on the part of the Reform and Conservative movements abroad, especially in the US where they command the adherence of a majority of the Jewish community.

In an attempt to prevent a rift between the Israel and the Diaspora, the government established a committee headed by former finance minister Yaacov Neeman to seek a compromise. The committee drafted a proposal calling for the establishment of a central conversion institution which would include representatives of all three religious streams. The conversion itself, however, was to be conducted by Orthodox rabbis, according to the proposal.

See COURT, Page 7

Knesset approval of Sheetrit as finance minister uncertain

Shalom: PM's choice a slap in the face

By LIAT COLLINS

The appointment of coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheetrit as finance minister is expected to come to a vote today when the Knesset meets for a special session. The appointment was made last night by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Sheetrit is considered to be a political dove and is also credited with initiating several social-oriented policies. He is seen as strengthening Sephardi representation in the Likud leadership, and noted at a press conference that he immigrated from Morocco at the age of nine and has worked since he was 12.

The appointment is expected to raise some objections among both opposition and coalition MKs.

Sheetrit's role in drawing up the government's answer to the Public Housing Law initiated by Meretz MK Ran Cohen drew fire from both opposition MKs and Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs. A spokesman for Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said last night Edelstein would not support the appointment because it was a meaningless election gimmick stemming from internal Likud considerations. At the same time, National Religious Party MKs have often criticized Sheetrit for being too close to Shas leader Aryeh Deri.

Likud MK Ruby Rivlin, who acts as Sheetrit's deputy whip, is expected to take over the post of whip.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu appears with Likud whip MK Meir Sheetrit at a press conference yesterday, where he announced Sheetrit's appointment as finance minister. (Arnel Jerozolimski)

In a press conference announcing the appointment, Netanyahu said he had been thinking about it for some time but had postponed making the appointment because of the party's primary elections. Sheetrit came in fourth after Netanyahu in the primaries.

Netanyahu called Sheetrit, "the right man to carry out the necessary measures as finance minister in at least the five months left until the establishment of the next government."

Science Minister Silvan Shalom, who came first in the Likud primary elections two weeks ago and saw himself as the natural candidate for the post, told reporters, "I just ask myself why I was not given the position. The Likud central committee just a couple of weeks ago had its say and expressed faith in me and put me in first place. It apparently wanted to see me in a position now held by someone else. I ask myself what really lies behind it. Does the fact I came first make me somebody's target? Maybe I would have been better off in second place."

Shalom said he had all the economic credentials for the post and hinted that elements outside the Likud were responsible for keeping him from it. He would not say what steps he would take.

See SHEETRIT, Page 7

Lauder denies wrongdoing in Serbian media deal

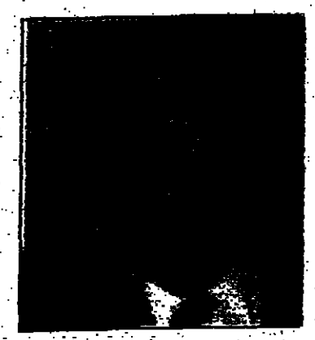
By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER and MARILYN HENRY

Ronald Lauder, incoming chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, denied a report yesterday that his communications company had apparently defied US sanctions on trade with the Serbs and entered a commercial deal with Yugoslavia's state-run communications company.

"I am an innocent victim here. I went to Serbia to help out the Jewish community there, and we were offered a business venture. We took it to the State Department to ask them what we can do, and we're waiting for an answer from them," Lauder, in Jerusalem with organization leaders, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Asked if the allegations carried yesterday by *The New York Times* are untrue, he replied, "yes."

According to the *Times*, Lauder's RSL Communications signed a contract with Telekom Serbia to provide long-distance phone services to and from Yugoslavia two months after President Bill Clinton imposed the economic sanctions last summer.



Ronald Lauder (Isaac Harari)

The sanctions came after President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia increased the repression in the ethnic Albanian region of Kosovo.

Lauder owns the largest media enterprise operating in Central and Eastern Europe, where he has substantial real estate holdings. Lauder, the president of the Jewish National Fund, also is the single largest benefactor of Jewish schools and camps in the region.

RSL also issued a statement denying it had reached an agreement with the Serbian communications company, adding that "RSL-COM has a memorandum of agreement with the international operators of the Serbian company," similar to accords reached by other American operators.

See LAUDER, Page 7

Interest rates cut by 0.5%

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Bank of Israel governor Jacob Frenkel announced yesterday he had lowered the central bank's key lending rate by 0.5 percent to 13%.

The decrease was in line with analysts' expectations of a rate cut of between 0.3% and 0.5%.

Meanwhile in the US stock prices soared on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average shot up 212.73, or by 2.3 percent, to close at 9,552.68.

Frenkel's long awaited move represents the first rate decrease since before the October crisis when the sharp depreciation of the shekel compelled the Bank of Israel to hike interest rates by four percentage points within two weeks.

Full reports, Page 12 and 13

More bad news for Labor

ANALYSIS

By [illegible]

Like any pivotal appointment, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's latest pick for finance minister leaves several casualties, most obviously those whose hopes to win the Treasury are now dashed. But the real loser from this development stands to be the Labor party.

In appointing the coalition chairman as his third treasurer in less than three years, Netanyahu killed three birds with one stone, that had nothing to do with the economy:

First, he avoided reaching election day with a key cabinet position effectively vacant. Secondly, the Netanyahu-Sharon-Arens spearhead, which the PM brandished in the aftermath of former defense minister Yitzhak Mordechai's crippling departure, now got its much needed non-Ashkenazi shine.

And lastly, the appointment elegantly jabbed Science Minister Silvan Shalom, whose victory in Likud's internal elections earlier this month apparently enticed Netanyahu to sideline the trained economist and former head of the Israel Electric Corporation, lest he earn too many kudos and threaten the premier's own popularity.

Yet beyond all the plots, maneuvers and machinations, there is also an economy at stake here, and Sheetrit's ascent to the Treasury means that from a Likud propagandist's viewpoint, things now stand to look better than ever.

See BAD NEWS, Page 7

PM's answer to Ben-Ami and Mordechai

ANALYSIS

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu showed yesterday just how much of a gambler he is. No one knows better than a card-sharp that to cash in big time you also have to take big chances.

Netanyahu took a whopper of a risk yesterday when he handed MK Meir Sheetrit one of the most lucrative portfolios at his disposal just when the elections campaign is kicked into high gear. As any political player will readily attest, this is the time to close the ranks and inspire unity almost at any cost. Netanyahu's courting of Rafael Eitan and Avigdor Kahalani demonstrates his desire to remove competition and inspire a sense of a common goal to be pursued with determination by consolidated force.

This is hardly the juncture at which any politician can afford the slightest danger of controversy and confrontation from within.

Netanyahu knows that he has plenty of potential malcontents and ambitious egos around him. If any of them resents his move, and, worse yet, acrimoniously makes his umbrage a matter of public record, then Netanyahu is in deep trouble.

Others have already staked claim to the portfolio, most notably Science Minister Silvan Shalom, who had come considerably ahead of Sheetrit in the Likud race for slots on the Knesset list. Last night Shalom made his first discordant sounds of protest.

See ANSWER, Page 7

NEWS
in brief

Weizman invites pope to visit

President Ezer Weizman extended an invitation to Pope John Paul II to visit Israel during the millennium year. Weizman made the invitation public last night while addressing a gathering of 540 Christian clergymen in Tel Aviv last night. The religious leaders, from 30 countries, are attending a tourism conference in preparation for visits by pilgrims in 2000.

The director of the Vatican's travel agency said Sunday that six million pilgrims could be expected next year. Monsignor Liberio Andreotti said the Vatican would encourage all those coming to Rome to continue on to Israel. *Batsheva Tsur*

Netanyahu to meet King Abdullah in Jordan

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu announced yesterday that he will visit Jordan's King Abdullah II next Sunday to "widen the circle of peace."

"The visit expresses the stability and strength of the peaceful relations between us and Jordan," Netanyahu said.

He had scheduled a meeting with Abdullah when he was acting regent but it was canceled when Abdullah's father, King Hussein, returned to Jordan critically ill. *News agencies*

IDF soldier lightly injured in Lebanon accident

An IDF soldier was lightly injured in the leg yesterday evening in a road accident in the northeastern sector of the security zone. A vehicle with several soldiers smacked into another vehicle. The crash is under investigation. *Itim*

NY haredim protest outside Israeli consulate

About 500 haredim, thought to belong to the Satmar sect, demonstrated yesterday across the street from the Israeli consulate in New York, according to New York Police estimates.

Standing on the Second Avenue sidewalk on a frigid day, they shouted and carried signs condemning Israel for "torturing Jews in the cloak of justice."

It is believed they were demonstrating against the detention of three men charged with the attack on three Christian women in Mea She'arim in November. *Marilyn Henry*

Court orders compromise on Goldstein grave

The High Court of Justice decided yesterday that a compromise should be reached on a petition by the family of Baruch Goldstein who wants his gravesite to remain as is. Goldstein killed 29 Palestinians in the Tomb of the Patriarchs in 1994, before being bludgeoned to death.

Following the IDF's decision to remove the shrine which has sprung up around Goldstein's burial place in Kiryat Arba, Goldstein's family said the structures are common to all Jewish cemeteries. The Knesset passed a law forbidding memorials to terrorists two years ago.

In another petition, the grandmother of Ohad Bacharach, murdered in Wadi Kelt, called for signs decorating the tomb of Izzadin Kassam, near Haifa, to be removed. Kassam's name is used by Islamic terror groups. *Itim*

Jerusalem teen accused of raping his sister

A 15-year-old was remanded three days by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday for the rape of his 11-year-old sister. The youth was arrested based on his sister's accusations to a social worker. According to police, the girl said her brother raped her four times in the past month in their basement, and she reported it when she heard about similar cases in the country. Police said the brother confessed to the crime. *Amy Klein*

Judge: Appeal against Bassiouny to be heard

A panel of three judges will hear belly dancer Shulamit Shalom's appeal against a Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court decision not to try Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny for allegedly sexually assaulting her almost two years ago. Tel Aviv District Court Judge Hila Gerstal decided yesterday. A date for the hearing has not yet been set. *Heidi J. Gleit*

Labor Party members to plan action against 'One Israel' appointments

By DANNA HARMAN

While Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak tours the development towns of Yeroham, Ofakim, Netivot and Sderot today with his social message of education, health care, and employment, a large number of his party members will be sitting in Tel Aviv discussing a different kind of message.

Close to 20 Labor members are expected to show up at the party headquarters today to talk about what action they plan to take, and what message they want to send their chairman in light of his plans to place non-party members on the Labor list.

Barak, with his vision of a broader Labor party – "One Israel" – has entered into negotiations with the Meimad Party, the Gesher Party and Shlomo Lachiani, who plans to launch his party Dor Hadash (the new generation) tomorrow.

While nothing has been settled yet, MK Haim Ramon met yesterday with Gesher head David Levy, MK Yossi Beilin sat down with Meimad leaders Rabbi Michael Melchior and Prof. Avi Ravitzky last night and MKs Shlomo Ben-Ami and Binyamin Ben-Eliezer have reportedly scheduled a meeting with Lachiani later this week.

The Labor Party members who called the meeting today are those who are most likely to personally suffer from the "One Israel" concept.

The party members who are in the 20th and downward positions know that, if newcomers are brought in, they will be pushed further down the list – to so-called unrealistic places.

MK Eitan Cabel, No. 28 on the current list, said the group was angling to convince Barak that too many additions to the party would be counterproductive.

"We want the party central committee to go to a secret vote on every inclusion," said Cabel. "I don't think it is a matter of Barak wrecking the party or anything like that – but I have been working day and night for this party for a long time and I don't think I am less worthy of a position that anyone else."

Cabel added that while some additions were "certainly acceptable," it was unclear whether all those Barak wanted to include would truly bring with them a large number of additional votes.

Micha Goldman, who holds the 27th slot on the list, echoed these sentiments, saying Barak's plan was "unwieldy," and that some of the newcomers being talked about were, "not serious choices."

Barak, meanwhile, speaking at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba yesterday, clarified that he did not intend to promise the newcomers ministerial positions, but rather that he was simply looking to create a broader based party. "I have no doubt that with One Israel we will be able to gain about 40 mandates and all those who are worrying right now have no need to do so."

Goldman said in response that "if Barak is so sure 40 people on the list are going to get into the next Knesset – he should place the newcomers in the final 30 slots."

Levy told Channel 1 yesterday that "the term 'saved spots' is a distortion. I understand that it's all part of the political slang, where there have to be winners and losers and those who are being manipulated... but it is just not accurate."

Ramon said, in turn, that while nothing had been settled, "we hope to strike a deal soon." He added that the protests within Labor were not hampering negotiations.

Palestinians demonstrate for Ocalan

By BEN LYNFIELD

Palestinian activists from across the political spectrum banded together yesterday in a bid to promote solidarity with Kurds and their imprisoned leader, Abdullah Ocalan.

But it was uncertain how much of a following they will be able to muster, given the limited resonance of the issue thus far in the Palestinian territories and the unfamiliarity of the public with the grievances of the Kurds.

In a smoky hall in Al-Bireh, leaders from Fatah, Hamas, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and other factions formed a committee to promote awareness of the Kurdish cause.

Many of the activists drew parallels between the Palestinian struggle to oust Israeli occupation and the Kurdish bid to carve out a state, or at least an autonomous region, in Turkey. "They have political rights and we have political rights. We are suffering from the Israelis and they from the Turks. And there is security cooperation between the Israelis and the Turks. On the Israeli side this cooperation is against us and on the Turkish side it is against the Kurds. So we and the Kurds are in the same position," Hatem Abdel-Kader, a Palestinian legislator and Fatah leader from Jerusalem said after the meeting.

Abdel-Kader said the new grouping should press the Palestinian Authority to take a stand on the Ocalan case. The PA has thus far avoided doing so, apparently out of a desire not to alienate supporters of its own struggle for statehood.

"The authority is quiet on this matter," Nabil Amr, PA Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said last night. "I personally don't have a position on it. I support a political solution for the Kurdish issue."

The activists are planning a march through Ramallah for Thursday, which follows up a demonstration on behalf of Ocalan held in Jenin on Saturday. They are also planning a protest in front of the Turkish Consulate in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

Abdel-Kader told the gathering: "The Turkish position is hostile to the Palestinians and [Turkey] is allied with the Zionist entity."

Ocalan was hailed as someone who has staunchly supported the Palestinians, and was said by DFLP leader Qais Abdel-Karim to have helped battle Israeli troops during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Hassan Youssef, a Hamas leader from Ramallah, said: "We are in the same situation. The problems are the same. [Both of us] face organized state terrorism." Moreover, he suggested, Palestinians owe a historic debt to the Kurds. "The hero who liberated our lands and sacred sites was not an Arab, he was a Kurd," Youssef said, referring to Salah a-Din.

Turkey warns Greece, Page 7



Masked Palestinian protesters hold wooden rifles and raise the Palestinian flag during a rally in support of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan at the Al-Najah University in Nablus yesterday. (AP)

Court delays decision on commandos' graves

Amid sharp disagreement between petitioning family members, the High Court of Justice yesterday chose to postpone a decision on the opening of the graves of two IDF commandos for DNA testing on their body parts until the IDF completes its own investigation into the case.

The two naval commandos – Third Petty Officers Guy Golan and Raz Tebi – were killed in Lebanon in 1997. The IDF secretly opened their graves seven months ago and buried additional body parts which were returned from Lebanon long after the commandos had been buried. The IDF said it tested and identified the parts but did so without consulting the parents, who later found out.

The IDF decided on its own investigation only after the two fathers decided to petition the court.

Tebi's father Nachshon said yesterday in court: "Let them put themselves in my place for an hour and see what I feel. This is an embarrassment to the entire legal system. I wouldn't wish for anyone to be in my position."

Stating he had no faith in the IDF probe, he added: "Why do you keep postponing this? How much can you torture a man who is not sure who is buried in his son's grave?"

But his wife Yardena said she objected to reopening the graves out of consideration for the army's investigation and respect for the dead.

The presiding Judge Dov Levin said he wanted to hear the conclusions of the IDF inquiry led by retired High Court judge Zvi Tal, before making a decision. (Itim)

UN Security Council debates Israeli protection of civilians

By MARILYN HENRY

UNITED NATIONS – Condemnation of Israel in the UN General Assembly was expected to spill over into the Security Council yesterday, when a council meeting, convened to continue discussions on the protection of civilians in wartime, was expected to become a forum at which Israel would be denounced for violations of international humanitarian law.

Yesterday's session, though not designed to address any specific conflict, came less than two weeks after the assembly voted 115-2 in a "emergency special session" for a resolution that assailed Israeli settlement activity and called for an unprecedented Geneva Convention in July on the treatment of civilians in wartime.

Earlier this month, the council ordered UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to report by September on ways to protect civilians and refugees in armed conflicts and to ensure that humanitarian workers can do their jobs in the field.

The February 12 meeting, the first-ever open council session on the topic, reflected the council's agitation at civilian casualties, particularly those of children, and violations of international law.

According to Olara Otunnu, Annan's special representative on children in armed conflict, 2 million children were killed in conflicts from 1987-97.

"The Security Council expresses concern over the widening gap between the rules of international humanitarian law and their application," it said in a statement at the close of the February 12 meeting. The council called on all parties to strictly comply with their obligations under international law, in particular under the Hague and Geneva Conventions.

The assembly, meanwhile, called for a July conference of the Geneva Convention to discuss Israeli activities; Jerusalem has insisted it will not attend.

The conference would have to be arranged by Switzerland, as the depository of the protocols. However, there are no provisions for how such a conference would be arranged.

Switzerland, in effect, "opened the door" for yesterday's debate, then caused a chain reaction, by requesting to address the council, sources said.

Once Switzerland said it wanted to speak, the Palestinians also wanted to, which prompted the Israelis to do the same. In the end, some two dozen nations were expected to speak by the time the session ended last night.

Nations need to take "practical steps" to ensure adherence and respect for the Geneva Convention and humanitarian law, Ambassador to the UN, Dore Gold told the council. Israel had done this, he said, noting that the IDF includes the provisions of the convention in the staff orders of every soldier.

"The real test of states as to the seriousness they attach to international humanitarian law comes when they face clear and immediate threats to their national security and, nonetheless, demonstrate a decisive determination to educate their armed forces, to incorporate their legal processes, and to retain transparency in order to protect the rights of civilians in armed conflict," Gold said.

Norway's PM: Move forward on peace process

By DANNA HARMAN and news agencies

Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said yesterday he felt Palestinians and Israelis both realize there is no turning back from the peace process.

Bondevik, speaking after a two-hour meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, said there was a need to move forward with implementing the Wye accord. He also indicated it would be wise for Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to delay declarating statehood planned for May 4.

Bondevik, who is on a three-day visit to Israel and PA areas, said that in his meeting with Arafat Sunday, he found a man who is "open-minded and flexible" about suggestions that he postpone the declaration of Palestinian statehood.

"I have invited Yasser Arafat to continue our discussions. We have agreed to meet in Oslo, the Norwegian capital, in due time before the fourth of May," Bondevik told reporters.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, turned his attention to the Norwegian plan to compensate Norwegian Jews for property which was confiscated by the Nazis during World War II. He said that " no government has put forward a more equitable proposal, equitable in moral, in historical, in material terms."

About one-third of Norway's pre-war community of 2,100 Jews died in the Holocaust. Survivors who returned home received little help in a country struggling to recover from the Nazi occupation. Much of their property had been seized, and was never returned.

However in 1996, Norway established a commission to locate the stolen property. It was the first of such in Europe. Within 15 months the commission reviewed thousands of documents and about 1,700 cases. Last June, the government submitted a plan to pay about $60 million in compensation. Under the proposal, $27 million would go to individuals and funds aimed at supporting Jewish culture and Holocaust studies.

President Ezer Weizman told Bondevik he planned to invite Norway's King Harald for a first-ever visit to Israel.

A year after the passing of our beloved

TONY KRISTAL ז"ל

we will visit his grave to honor his memory on Tuesday, February 23, 1999 (7 Adar 5759) at 4 p.m. at the Caesarea Cemetery.

The memorial service will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 1999 (8 Adar 5759) under the auspices of World Mizrahi and members of The Israel Forum at 8 p.m. at 54 King George Street, Jerusalem.

The Family
and Yamit Park Plaza

Found: Message in a bottle left by French troops 73 years ago

By LIAT COLLINS

A message in a bottle was discovered yesterday by a surprised worker at the Nimrod's Castle National Park in the Golan Heights.

The broken glass bottle was found among the ruins of the castle's stones.

The yellowing paper inside had a hand-written message from a company of French soldiers who were there in the 1926 and decided to leave a souvenir for future generations.

"These buildings have been made by soldiers of the French Army during the month... of October 1926," the message read. "Let the one who finds this document keep it as a souvenir from Company... of the 80th RI... 4th Cy."

The message is signed by soldiers and has the name of their unit and company. The names are Capt. Zaoli, Lt. Valat, Lt. Chanson and Sec.-Lt. Fruet along with workers Clavel, Gaillard and Magne.

The Nature Protection and National Parks Authority has forwarded the letter to the French ambassador to try and find out what happened to the three soldiers and if any of them are still alive and can remember placing the bottle there.

Nimrod's Castle was built by the Mamelukes in 1228 as one of a string of fortresses meant to protect the area and the road to Damascus from the threat of the Crusaders. In the 1920s it was under French control and the French soldiers added fortifications.

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Election



Levy helps kick off Blich mock elections

A student at Blich High School in Ramat Gan interviews Education Minister Yitzhak Levy during his visit there yesterday. Levy praised the mock elections the school was preparing to hold on March 16, because of the way the pretend polls reaffirmed democratic values. With the exception of the most recent election, in which the pupils elected Shimon Peres prime minister, Blich pupils have been remarkably successful at selecting the parties and candidates who win the actual elections.

(Photo: Mati Milstein/Israel Sun; Text: Heidi J. Gleit/).

The NRP – to the left of Begin, to the right of Netanyahu

ANALYSIS

By SARAH HONIG

The NRP not only picked itself a new Knesset list Sunday. More than anything it came out of its electoral process with a new party leader - Shaul Yahalom. This despite the fact that Yahalom occupies only the second slot on the slate of candidates, while Education Minister Yitzhak Levy remains unchallenged in top spot.

Once again Yahalom showed all and sundry how much of a consummate politician he is. He never openly took Levy on. Quite the contrary, he warmly endorsed Levy's unanimous election as the party's No.1 several weeks ago. Yahalom no doubt understood that in a party which does not field a prime ministerial candidate, it matters less who is placed in the lead. What does matter a great deal is who wields the actual clout.

So prudently, Yahalom decided not to squander his energies on a battle with Levy which will yield few real returns but which could arouse antagonisms. Yahalom saw no reason not to let Levy have the primacy, while he took the party and called the shots. It's a as simple as that.

Both Levy and Yahalom fielded lists of preferred candidates. Levy's list was topped by MK Hanan Porat and was followed by MKs Zvi Hendel and Nissan Slomiansky. Yahalom's list featured MK Yigal Bibi, Zevulun Orlev and Nahum Langenthal.

After the vote was counted, it emerged that all of Yahalom's favorites follow him directly on the list in safe, high and prestigious slots. Hendel and Solomiansky come only below the Yahalom trio and Porat is virtually out. This is an out and out Yahalom victory, even if he is still being courteous and nice to Levy.

This is not the first such Yahalom triumph. Not too many months back he was one of the loudest voices cautioning Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu against signing anything at Wye.

Yet he later did his utmost to save the government, realizing full well that it is the best the Right can hope for – from its own vantage point.

In the eventual central committee showdown on the issue, Yahalom defeated Levy by a two-to-one ratio, leaving even the most outspoken hawks little choice but to toe his line. It wasn't that the committee turned dovish or that Yahalom had shed his hawkish feathers. Both he and the committee simply did not want Netanyahu to fall.

In its vote on Sunday, the committee again evinced this basic pragmatism under Yahalom's direction. This time too neither he nor the committee turned dovish. They voted for political realism. Porat was clearly punished for having set in motion the processes that brought down a government which the NRP did not want toppled. Porat's banishment is no minor occurrence. He is a central and an active MK and a declared aspirant for the party leadership.

In 1996, he planned to compete against Hammer for the NRP's helm but was foiled by Levy, who edged him out of the leadership of the hawkish wing of the party. Levy and Porat had been competitors for years.

Porat, in fact, fared worse than Hendel and Slomiansky – the other outstanding hawks – because, in contrast to them, he faced more than Yahalom's opposition. Porat appeared on Yahalom's hit-list but was also not supported by all of Levy's people. The combined pressures against him, from different party sectors, rendered him the major victim of Sunday's vote, far more so than the other hawks.

What happened to Porat in the NRP perhaps most closely parallels what happened to MK Dedi Zucker in Meretz. Like Zucker, Porat had crossed too many people and was a problem for too many others. The hit lists which had little effect in Labor and in the Likud, did work in the smaller parties.

Moreover, it should be recalled that Porat is not the only casualty, albeit the most dramatic one. Had he been the only one pushed down, there might have been cause to speak of a backlash against the party hawks. But the plain fact is that several doves, including Knesset faction chairman Shmaryahu Ben Tsur, did not fare well either, indicating that more was at play here than an ideological switch.

The last NRP list, actually, was no less dovish than the new one.

Headed by the late Zevulun Hammer and including the late Avraham Stern, as well as Bibi and Ben Tsur, the 1996 list could hardly be depicted as exclusively the settlers' lobby. Bibi has since moved quite far from his somewhat dovish original stance, while the NRP's new relative doves are Orlev and Langenthal.

Yahalom, their patron, suggested that we would do better to refer to the two as "lesser hawks, rather than as any sort of a dove." As for himself he argues that "it is ludicrous" to describe him in dovish terms or talk about the leftward lurch of the party.

In all, the NRP vote was good news for Netanyahu. The new NRP make-up would allow him more easily to enter into national unity deal with Labor after the elections, be it under his leadership or not. Things would have been different had the traditional balance in the NRP been upset in the Right's favor. But it was not. The NRP was and remains a bit to the left of Ze'ev (Benny) Begin and the settler's Tekuma list.

It was and remains to the right of the Likud and Netanyahu.

Meimad: NRP list proves it's extremist

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

The National Religious Party's new list demonstrates that it is a party of right-wing extremists, the Meimad Party claimed yesterday. The addition of several candidates who are considered moderate is only a "cosmetic change," the party said in a statement.

"Though the party apparently is less extremist [than its leadership], it is clear that the NRP will continue to address political questions and the issue of religion and state, as it did in the previous term," the statement said.

"The NRP was and remains an extremist party, located on the fringes of the Israeli political spectrum."

"Zevulun Orlev and Nahum Langenthal, who won the fourth and fifth slots on the NRP list and are considered moderates, are actually just pragmatic and will not have enough influence to balance out the extremists on the list," Meimad spokesman Moni Mordechai said.

NRP leader and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said he was very pleased with the list, though he regretted that MK Hanan Porat had not won a higher place than the 11th slot.

"The NRP is a right-wing party," Levy told students at the Blich High School in Ramat Gan, emphasizing the party intends to support settlements and oppose a Palestinian state.

The NRP is supporting Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's bid for another term, Levy added, because his stance is closest to the party's.

Meanwhile, Labor MK Yossi Beilin was to meet last night with chairman of the Meimad executive Rabbi Michael Melchior and Avi Ravitzky to discuss whether Meimad will run on the One Israel ticket with Labor.

Meimad is asking for two safe slots near the top of the list plus a third realistic slot. Mordechai said he expects an agreement to be reached this week.

Meimad has not yet decided upon its list, but Ravitzky, Melchior, and Kibbutz Lavi's Rabbi Yehuda Gilad are expected to fill the first three slots.

Meanwhile, Land of Israel Front leader Michael Kleiner, who is spearheading unity in the far Right camp, said the NRP results only emphasize that it is not a party concerned with the Land of Israel and has "gone to the left." Kleiner said Porat had been "thrown out. Porat's place is and always has been with us."

Nina Gilbert contributed to this report.

Poraz files complaint against Center Party

By NINA GILBERT and LIAT COLLINS

Shinui leader Avraham Poraz yesterday filed a complaint with the Parties Registrar over the intention of Yitzhak Mordechai's party to call itself the Center Party.

"Shinui has held the name 'Shinui, the Center Party' since 1981 and any attempt by any other party to use this name is misleading," said Poraz.

If, however, the Parties Registrar does not rule out the request of Mordechai's party to the centrist name, Poraz's party is considering calling itself "Shinui, the Secular Center Party" instead.

Meanwhile, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, with whose party Shinui had been associated, announced the party's campaign leadership yesterday, saying that Meretz must win more seats than the haredim "for things to change here." Only with 15 mandates can Meretz neutralize haredi blackmail, Sarid said.

MK Amnon Rubinstein, a former Shinui colleague of Poraz, will head the campaign headquarters; MK Haim Oron will be responsible for organization; and the information campaign will be headed by MK Ran Cohen. Former minister Yair Tsaban will head the strategic and survey team.

ON THE RECORD

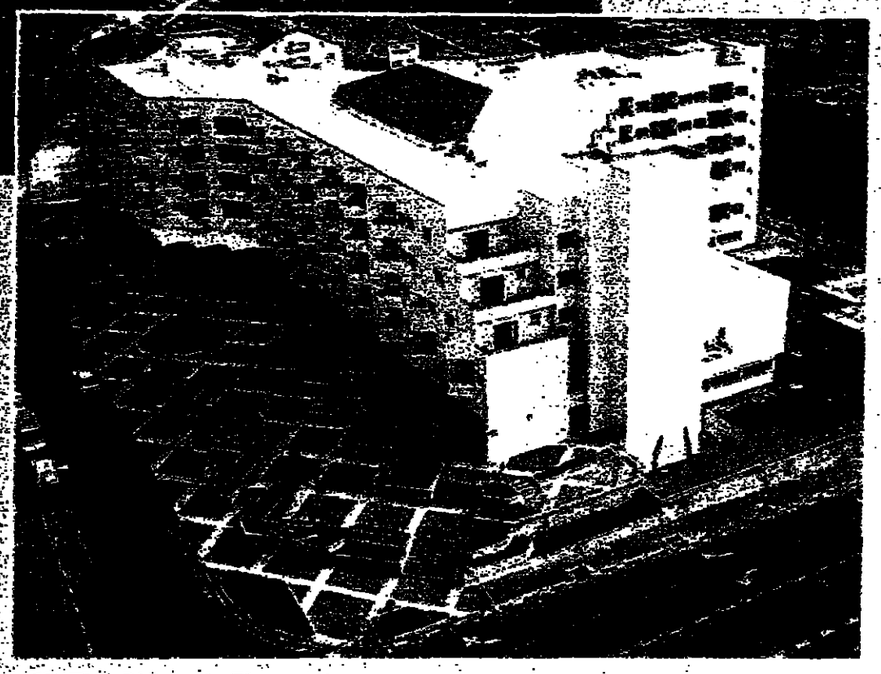
I am jealous of the Supreme Court president. I have never seen a rabbi with so many followers who is above being questioned. There is a new secular religion and Justice Aharon Barak – the admor from Rehavia – is its rabbi. Shas leader and MK Aryeh Deri on Army Radio yesterday.

The NRP is a right-wing party – Education Minister Yitzhak Levy told students at the Blich High School in Ramat Gan.

We have three candidates for a peace treaty, the Palestinians for a final settlement, Syria, and Lebanon. And I predict that at least with one of them we shall complete a peace treaty before the year 2000 is over, and I hope with all of them – Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the visiting Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Your Golden Years In Style





The New Center in Hod Hasharon

Ad-120's success in Rishon LeZion has inspired Am-Hal Ltd. to build a similar center in Hod Hasharon, a quiet and pastoral suburb of metropolitan Tel Aviv. The new Ad-120 Hod Hasharon is being erected in a neighborhood made up of private homes within easy reach of all major traffic thoroughfares. The site stands opposite the Margalit Hasharon shopping mall, near the local country club and barely 800 yards from the city center.

Ad-120's two extensive retirement centers are located in Rishon LeZion and the other in Hod Hasharon.

The Ad-120 retirement home concept was conceived approximately ten years ago when two of the largest investment companies in Israel, Israel Corporation Ltd. and Ampal Inc., jointly set up the Am-Hal company with the sole purpose of building and operating a chain of deluxe retirement centers in centrally located, prestigious neighborhoods.

Their first retirement center to operate under the trade name Ad-120 was set up in Rishon LeZion and was an unprecedented success, quickly becoming a model for the retirement home industry. The Ad-120 retirement home has been full for the past number of years, and when apartments become available, they do not stay vacant for long.

Ad-120 in Rishon is made up of 160 apartments ranging from studios to two and three-room apartments. Residents pay a deposit of $106,000 to $250,000 with a yearly depreciation of 2.3 percent, but not more than 30%, plus a monthly maintenance fee of $600 to $1,120 depending on the size of the unit, which covers electricity and water, municipal tax, house keeping and more (does not include laundry services and meals).

The apartments are equipped with modern kitchens, private phone lines, emergency call switches, and wall-to-wall carpeting. Other facilities and services at Ad-120 include a dining room and cafeteria, a swimming pool, lounges, and a doctor who is on duty 24 hours a day.

When complete, the center will boast 260 units among which will be studio, two-room and three-room apartments. Potential residents will be required to make a deposit of $117,000 to $310,000 with an annual deprecation of 2.5 percent, but not more than 30%, as well as a monthly maintenance fee covering almost all expenses except meals and laundry, of $560 to $1,190, and varying according to the size of the apartment.

The Ad-120 in Hod Hasharon is estimated for completion by the year 2000 and will be equipped with the latest in modern living, to combine luxury and utility. Like its sister center in Rishon LeZion, the units will boast modern kitchen facilities and wall-to-wall carpeting, while the center grounds will include a dining room, a cafeteria, a lounge, a swimming pool as well as a gym. All apartments will be built with balconies or terraces.

The Personal Touch

The Ad-120 retirement home chain can take pride not only in the top quality building it offers, but in the personal care and attention it gives to each and every one of its residents as well. The home management organizes a wide range of activities for the elderly, such as lectures, outings, hobby workshops and more. In addition to the full time doctor on-call, both centers offer a fully equipped nursing unit housed in a special center and staffed by a team of a professionals.

The apartments at the Ad-120 center in Hod Hasharon are already on the market. As an extra incentive, Ad-120 management is offering ten percent off on the purchase of the home's first 40 apartments; But the units are selling like hot cakes, so move quickly.

For further details contact:
David Ditch,
Tel: 03-9687222;
Fax: 03-9672646.
Ora Kariv,
Tel: 09-7416959;
Fax: 09-7416949;
Email: visit@ad-120.co.il

Mordechai to US Jews: My vote against council bill has no meaning

By DANNA HARMAN

The question most asked of center party leader Yitzhak Mordechai early yesterday morning when he addressed the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Jerusalem Hilton was: "Could you please clarify your position on the matter of Reform and Conservative Jews on the religious *councils*?"

Mordechai, who just last month sided with the Orthodox factions in Knesset in a tie-breaking vote to pass the government-sponsored bill aimed at restricting Reform and Conservative Jews' entry onto religious councils, said he had voted out of "tactical political considerations."

"That was a tactical, political vote which made no difference... no difference at all" said Mordechai, adding that he had not wanted to vote against the bill, like Labor party leader Ehud Barak, and risk losing support among the Orthodox parties. "The way to build bridges and find a formula for agreement between Orthodox and secular is through talking to one another," said Mordechai, "and that is what I intend to do." Mordechai then discussed his plan for creating a debate forum between rabbis of different streams of Judaism, and said he wanted to "work with all the rabbis in Israel."

Not everyone was impressed. Robert Golub, executive director of the Zionist Organization of the Conservative movement said he would have preferred if Mordechai had said he had voted on principle. "What he is saying is that he sacrificed the Conservative and Reform communities for the sake of electoral gain. This is a very cynical use of his vote. I would have respected him more if he had said he voted on principle – because at least then we could have had a fair argument about the issues." Bill Hess, an Artza board member opined, "Mordechai just has no feeling for our issues at all."

Mordechai, speaking slowly in belabored English, tried to steer the talk towards the peace process. He told the audience that while he had done all he could while in government to push it forward, "there were others bent on damaging the peace process."



Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai (left) chats with Ronald Lauder, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, at the Jerusalem Hilton yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

"I have the same sort of feeling I had before the Yom Kippur War," said Mordechai. "Everyone before that war recognized that the situation was bad, but no one would admit it. I see dangerous ways ahead." Mordechai said that despite the "excellent," agreement reached at Wye, "there is no movement and no change."

Mordechai further said the Palestinians understand terror attacks would help Netanyahu solidify support, and that, while still in office he had reached an understanding with Palestinian officials that they would try to prevent terror attacks by Islamic militants before Israel's May 17 elections.

Later he clarified, in Hebrew that he did not reach an agreement; rather, an "understanding" that "during this period it is important for them to make efforts to combat terror."

Jerry Goodman, executive director of the National Committee for Labor Israel, said that while he knows of no switching of alliances from Barak to Mordechai at this stage. "there does not seem to be too significant a difference between their positions, and so people here would not feel uncomfortable making that switch." Goodman further said that, as the new candidate on the block, the onus was on Mordechai to differentiate himself from Barak in order to garner support from members of the conference.

Lester Pollak, a former chair of the Conference of Presidents, added that while he believed Mordechai was likely to grab some attention, he would not take support away from Barak at this stage.

Erekat: PM using Palestinians as election tool

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat criticized Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for using Palestinians as a tool in his election campaign.

"Arafat will not run in this election," Erekat said Sunday night, in a dinner address to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "So stop insinuating to the Israelis that if you don't vote Netanyahu, you are voting Arafat. And stop telling the Israelis and Palestinians openly that 'if Palestinians were to vote in the Likud primaries, they would not vote for me, because I represent Israel's interests and not their interests.' That's bad. That is strengthening Hamas and [Islamic] Jihad...

"Please Mr. Netanyahu, don't shoot yourself in the foot and shoot us in the head. You can say whatever you want to say about Arafat, about me as a chief negotiator... But don't touch the Palestinian people. If you continue to portray the Palestinian people as the enemies, this is the main ammunition of Hamas and Jihad."

Erekat said he had sent this message to Netanyahu, and appealed to "those of you who are friends of his, to send him this message on my behalf: Palestinian people are not your enemies. And they should not be portrayed as the enemy."

He said that since Netanyahu's election, "we have tried everything in the book to make partners out of Mr. Netanyahu, and that is the truth... We gave him every chance possible, but I think it's against his nature to see the Palestinians as partners."

Herut candidate and MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin told the conference leaders, meanwhile, that a confrontation with the Palestinian Authority is a year away, no matter who is elected.

"Within about a year it will become clear that there is no basis for a long-term agreement because the gap between the parties is just too large," Begin said Sunday.

The gap, he said, "will bring us into a real... threat of collision. I think in the American policy you can start to see ... movement from a process-management approach ... to maybe a crisis-management approach... I cannot see the logic for ceding more territory that would be used for more ... terrorist attacks."

Begin also said that he would not be on a joint list with Moledet as long as it has transfer in its platform.

"We're talking and talking and trying to [reach] unity," Begin told the *Post* after his address. "I hope we can manage to create a movement, a party that will go together in the elections. All the parties, I hope so.

However, Begin said in a panel at the conference that "I am not adopting – I will not adopt Moledet's policy on the eviction of Arabs from any place. This is the point of contention."

"I cannot and will not share a slate with people who represent parties who have that issue of transfer being a part of their platform," he said. "We are looking for way to maybe if possible to eliminate that article from their platform. If this is manageable, and this can be done, we will go together. If it cannot be done I will not do it."

Nina Gilbert contributed to this report.

PM: Israel will sign peace treaty by end of 2000

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Israel will sign a peace treaty with one of its three neighbors by the end of 2000, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said last night.

"We have three candidates for a peace treaty," Netanyahu told the visiting Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "The Palestinians for a final settlement, Syria, and Lebanon. And I predict that at least with one of them we shall complete a peace treaty before the year 2000 is over, and I hope with all of them."

Netanyahu touched on a wide range of subjects in the course of his one-hour speech and Q&A with his audience, including issues of particular concern to the American delegation such as the recent demonstrations against the Supreme Court.

"First, the independence of the Supreme Court is indisputable, and must be held above any criticism," Netanyahu said in reply to a question. "Secondly, we must understand that criticism must be reserved. People can criticize the Supreme Court in the United States or in Israel or in any society. obviously, but you cannot besmirch, call names, do that sort of thing. And when people have, I have spoken out very forcefully against it. because that is unacceptable. You can disagree with this or that decision, but you cannot cast dispersions or call the judges of Israel name."

The prime minister said the crux of the issue is an attempt being made to create a Constitutional base for the country.

"That will take *a lot* of talking," Netanyahu said. "I think it requires a set of discussions, preferably away from the public eye initially, but with deep thinkers, and with slow thinkers. I believe in fast thinking – you have to be fast on your feet in this business – but you have to be a slow, careful, deep thinker in this kind of thing, and that is something that we lack."

Sharansky finally sees Soviet criminal case against him

MOSCOW (AP) – Twenty-two years after he was jailed on trumped-up charges, former Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky has been allowed to see the materials of a Soviet criminal case against him, he said yesterday.

Sharansky, once one of the Soviet Union's best-known political prisoners, fought for the right of Jews to emigrate to Israel and was jailed in 1977 on charges that he was a CIA spy.

He spent 10 years in Soviet prisons before international pressure forced the Soviet government to strip him of citizenship and deport him.

It took nearly a quarter of a century and the collapse of the Soviet Union for the Industry and Trade Minister to be able to see the charges against him.

"I felt as though I had gone back 25 years in time, back to the investigations and the arrests ... to see all those names, and remember the opposition on our side, all that we fought against, all those forgeries, all those secrets," Sharansky said in a telephone interview.

"I could see all the methods they tried that ultimately failed. It was very moving, fascinating, and encouraging," he said.

Sharansky, who was in Moscow yesterday, said Russian officials have shown him about 200 pages from the 52 cases the Soviet prosecutors had against him, "and asked me if I wanted to look at the rest of it." Sharansky said he spent more than an hour between meetings with Russian economic officials going over the documents.

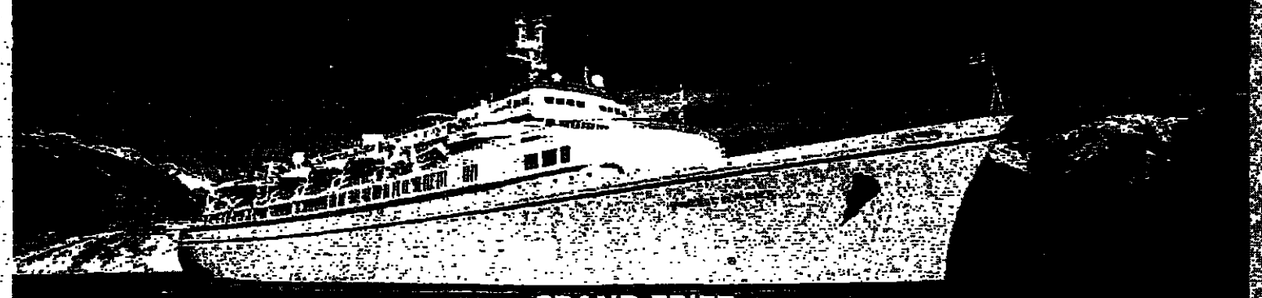
He said the Russian officials gave him the documents in an effort to close "a past that won't come back."

And he wasn't angry with the people who arrested him.

"Those people lost big. They lost control of the government. The Soviet Union doesn't exist anymore," he said.

Relations between Russia and Israel have warmed up somewhat in recent years, after decades of animosity during the Soviet rule. Sharansky has made frequent visits to Moscow to promote closer economic and political ties between the two countries.

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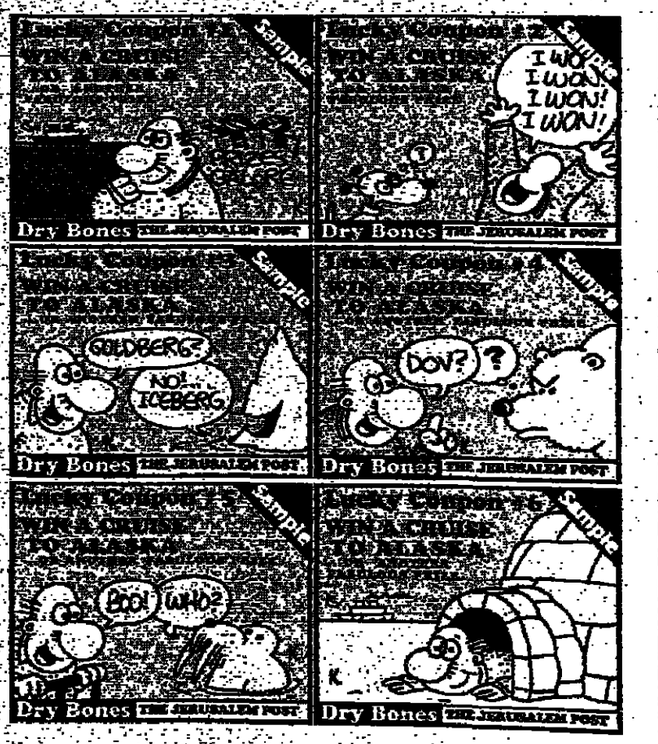
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THE PRIZES:
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The Grand Prize Drawing will be held on March 10, 1999.
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OTHER PRIZES:
Starting February 10 and continuing until March 10, 1999, one fully-completed entry form will be drawn each day and awarded a beautiful coffee table book from Steimatzky. The names of the winners will be published daily in the newspaper. Daily prize winners remain eligible for the Grand Prize Drawing.

THE CONTEST:
Every day for the next 6 weeks (January 22 - March 4) The Jerusalem Post will print one of the six cartoon coupons shown to the right - in the newspaper. Collect a different cartoon coupon each day, by cutting it out and pasting it on the entry form. When all 6 cartoons have been attached to the corresponding spaces on the form, send to: Alaska c/o The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem, 91000. You will then be eligible to win fabulous prizes.

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Collect the 6 different cartoon coupons that will appear in The Jerusalem Post from January 22 - March 4 1999, attach them to the corresponding spaces on the entry form below and send to: Alaska c/o The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem, 91000. You may enter as many times as you wish. All entries must reach The Jerusalem Post by March 8, 1999. Only fully-completed forms will be entered into the draw. No photocopies or faxes will be accepted.



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هكذا من الأصل

Arens: Hamas finding it hard to launch attacks

By LIAT COLLINS

Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Hamas wants to carry out terror attacks during the election period but is finding it difficult. Nonetheless, the danger of attacks exists, he assured the committee, according to a briefing given to parliamentary reporters.

Arens, in his first appearance before the committee since assuming the defense portfolio, was answering a question by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz). Arens said his impression is that the Palestinian Authority is not interested in large-scale terror attacks but does not reject small ones. His predecessor, center party leader Yitzhak Mordechai, later told the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations that the PA had clarified after the Wye agreement was frozen that it would try to prevent terror because it could harm the peace process.

In answer to a question by Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi on the need to examine the threat from armed Palestinian security forces, Arens reportedly said, "There is a need to assess the situation." He said agreements must be kept but only if there is reciprocity.

Much of Arens's report to the committee focused on the question of permanent borders and Israel's defense strategy. "We are at a stage of determining Israel's permanent borders, and territory has great significance and historically the outcome of wars was determined on the ground despite the great technological development," he said.

Asked about the development of settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, Arens said he saw no significant change in the settlement map or caravans being brought in. The settlements, he said, "are a fact of life and nobody will change that. Ultimately, they will contribute to Israel's permanent borders."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid also attacked Arens for reportedly refusing to meet with Palestinians since assuming the defense ministry post. Arens said in response he does not reject meeting with Palestinians and expects to meet senior officials in the future but the peace process today is carried out via the Foreign Ministry.

Arens also rejected criticism by Sarid that the high profile given to Israel's relations with Turkey are dangerous and the exposure should be lowered. Arens said in response that he sees great importance in the relations with Turkey and Israel should not reject the outstretched hand of the Turkish government.

Regarding Lebanon, Arens said the IDF encounters "difficult problems on the northern border where war is being carried out by emissaries" of Syria, and where no step is taken without Syrian knowledge. He said the Syrian control in Lebanon had increased since the elections there.

Discussing Israel's defense strategy, Arens said that Israel had an advantage over the Arab states in the balance of forces because Israel's economic situation allows it to budget more for defense. He said however there is a threat from ground-to-ground missiles armed with conventional and non-conventional warheads. Arens said whereas in the past there was a feeling that the home front was well defended, this is changing because of the proliferation of missiles.

He said the missiles were introduced to neutralize the advantage of the Israel Air Force.

He said the development of missiles allows countries which do not border Israel, like Iran and Iraq, to attack it.

He noted that the missile problem is not restricted to Israel and the Middle East but is a global one, citing the missiles being developed by North Korea and Iran as examples.

This, he said, is the reason there is growing international interest in the Israeli Arrow anti-missile missile.

Knesset may legalize Arutz 7 today

By NINA GILBERT

In spite of Justice Ministry opposition, Arutz 7 and other veteran pirate radio stations may be legalized today by the Knesset through legislation forwarded by the government under an agreement with the Land of Israel Front MKs.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein warned yesterday the measure is "very problematic" legally and if approved would "make it very difficult to enforce laws in the realm of pirate stations and illegal use of radio frequencies."

He said he was disappointed that alternative legislation that would have issued tenders for special interest radio stations was buried for "political reasons."

Meretz MK Ran Cohen told *The Jerusalem Post* he is already preparing a petition to the High Court of Justice against the legislation. "Rubinstein's position already shows to what extent the Knesset decision will be not only not-kosher but also illegal. The retroactive clearing of criminal activity can't be legal in a democratic country."

"The government has no shame: it is acting like a pirate by legalizing pirate stations," Cohen said.

Rubinstein questioned whether "it is fitting for the Knesset to set a precedent by legalizing criminal activity," also noting the stations had not paid royalties.

The Land of Israel Front MKs, including Michael Kleiner and Benny Elon, made the legalization of the stations a condition for their support of the 1999 state budget and economic arrangements bill.

The MKs had tried to get the measure passed before the vote on the state budget, but the opposition balked, threatened a filibuster, and managed to get the move delayed. Under a compromise, it was decided to also delay the vote on extending the kibbutz aid package for another two years.

Both items are on the agenda for second and third readings today. The pirate radio legalization measure is a reservation, sponsored by NRP MK Zvi Hendel, to the Telecommunication Law to establish a news station for satellite television. The measure would legalize pirate stations operating for five years, and has outraged the Second Television and Radio Authority.



Jewish Agency board of governors meets

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg makes a point to the chairman of the board of governors Alex Grass (right) and to Charles Goodman, outgoing chairman, prior to the opening of the winter session of the board of governors meeting in Jerusalem yesterday. Looking on at Burg's left is agency treasurer Salai Meridor. (Joe Malcolm)

Olmert denies validity of Arab 'mayor'

By AMY KLEIN

"There is only one mayor in Jerusalem, and he is Mayor Ehud Olmert, who was elected in democratic elections," a spokeswoman from Olmert's office said yesterday in response to reports of an alternate Arab municipality operating in east Jerusalem.

Al Kuds published an article on Friday announcing the appointment of Zaki Alghol as the new mayor of east Jerusalem, to replace Dr. Amin Majaj, who died two months ago.

This municipality is a shadow representative of the Arab municipality operating in eastern Jerusalem before 1967, when it was under Jordanian rule.

Alghol and some others on the municipality reside in Amman. New members have also recently been appointed to replace elder ones who have died.

"The council represents the Palestinian part of Jerusalem," said Ibrahim Dakkak, an engineer who was appointed to the council last week. Dakkak believes the association is more of a local council that will deal with non-political issues such as garnering financial aid for various Arab organizations and needy individuals.

But, he said, the council also represents Jerusalem Arabs in Arab organizations abroad.

Other members on the municipality include Nihad Abu-Gharbiya, principal of Al-Ibrahimiyeh College; Ali Taziz, head of the east Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce; Haj Abed Abu-Diab – an aide to Faisal Husseini, who holds the portfolio for Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian Authority: Faisal's cousin Basil Husseini; and Azzam Abu Saud, a relative of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The PA established a ceremonial mayoralty after Ruhi al-Khatib, the aged, exiled last Jordanian mayor of Jerusalem in 1993, was allowed to return in 1993. He died soon afterwards and a replacement was appointed.

IAF attacks Hizbullah targets north of security zone

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IAF warplanes attacked Hizbullah targets near the village of Zabkin, north of the security zone yesterday afternoon.

The attack came as the five-nation monitoring committee was meeting to discuss Israel's expansion of the security zone to include the village of Arnoun. The meeting was still going on late last night.

The fencing off of Arnoun, on the slopes leading to the Beaufort Castle held by the IDF, stunned Lebanon in light of the persistent reports Israel was considering some sort of pullback. Lebanon's Prime Minister Salim Hoss on Sunday urged Egypt to join other Arab states into pressuring Israel to pull out of the village.

"I requested President [Hosni] Mubarak's help in this matter and that he contact major Arab countries to pressure Israel to withdraw from this peaceful village," Hoss said during a visit to Egypt.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese Red Cross delegation tried to visit the village on Sunday to deliver supplies to the approximately 35 residents still living there. But the delegation claimed it was not allowed to enter the village and could only talk to the residents from behind the fence, Itim reported.

UN sources could not confirm the report and telephone calls to the Red Cross in Beirut went unanswered.

A senior IDF source flatly denied the report, saying there was no blockade of the village and that there was open access to it.

AN OPEN LETTER

In reference to the press report on Chaim Berger, who was arrested in Israel for alleged fraud in the U.S., we present here a letter from a prominent U.S. Congressman who serves as Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the House of Representatives and an excerpt from an open letter from other leading Congressmen who made known their general view of this case several months ago.

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
20th District, New York
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–3220

GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
POSTAL SERVICE
HUMAN RESOURCES

February 11, 1999

Mr. Arthur H. Gunther
Editorial Page Editor
The Journal News
200 North Route 303
West Nyack NY 10994

To the Editor:

Although I am reluctant to criticize editorial comments, some misstatements in your Feb. 1st editorial, entitled "Just Thievery," beg correction.

Your statement that some of the funding misappropriated by four New Square residents "went for personal use" is contrary to the information we have received. It is our understanding that the prosecution conceded that the funds in question were utilized solely to support the community's impoverished educational and social care needs. While not justifying these misdeeds, it should temper any sense of vindictiveness.

We should not lose sight of the fact that the Village of New Square has been saving our Rockland County taxpayers millions of dollars every year by maintaining its own private educational system. We should also bear in mind that, as a religious enclave, the Village of New Square produces productive community members, free from drug addiction, violent crimes, and other problems which are a blight on society and which costs our taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

You call for "maximum terms, with plenty of hours in plenty of days to think about how they let everyone down" for the defendants. In considering their penalty, should it be: equal treatment under the law, or vengeance?

A former new York City Senior Official pointed out to the prosecution that he is "troubled by the fact that justice is being ministered for political correctness and some groups may be more politically correct to prosecute than others. Furthermore, I see this investigation inexorably moving towards the destruction of a venerable community of poor and religious persons."

It was noted that similar cases of misuse of federal funding by New York University, Stanford, and Harvard Universities (N.Y. Times, April 8, 1997) were settled out of court by the imposition of fines and restitution. Shouldn't the recovery of the lost funds have precedence over revenge?

I have been privileged to work with many of the dedicated, philanthropic, and decent leaders of New Square. To paint the entire community with the brush of these four individuals, who acted without malice or personal gain, would be an injustice to all.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Member of Congress

EXCERPT FROM AN OPEN LETTER

Cases of fraud uncovered by the United States Government at Stanford University, New York University Medical Center (N.Y. Times, April 8, 1997) and scores of others have been settled without criminal prosecution via financial restitution. Although by no means agreeing to the guilt of the individuals accused, New Square's representatives have sought to bring the community's long nightmare to an end along the lines of above mentioned cases. They were stunned by the draconian unwillingness of the government to settle this case with the individuals accused as it has settled with countless others.

In view of the above, we call upon you Mary Jo White, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, to end this action which we consider to be a result of a double standard.

The citizens of this village must be permitted to resume the peaceful lives guaranteed to them by the Constitution of the United States of America.

The following is a partial list of Congressmen who signed the above letter.

Michael P. Forbes, New York 1st
Sue Kelly, New York 19th
Major Owens, New York 10th
Charles B. Rangel, New York 15th
Edolphus Towns, New York 1st

The Committee for Equal Justice

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Proposed Kosovo intervention mistaken

American forces in Kosovo lack both a strategic purpose and an exit strategy. Henry Kissinger writes



US troops are in harm's way in Kosovo: Soldiers in the KLA check their large caliber machine gun in the trenches on their front-line position in northern Kosovo this week. (AP)

President Bill Clinton's announcement that some 4,000 American troops will join a NATO force of 28,000 to help police a Kosovo agreement puts all those concerned with long-range American national security policy in a quandary.

Having at one time shared responsibility for national security policy and the extrication from Vietnam, I am profoundly uneasy about the proliferation of open-ended American commitments involving the deployment of US forces.

American forces are in harm's way in Kosovo, Bosnia and the Gulf. They lack both a definition of strategic purpose, by which success can be measured, and an exit strategy. In the case of Kosovo, the concern is that America's leadership would be impaired by the refusal of Congress to approve American participation in the NATO force that has come into being largely as a result of a diplomacy conceived and spurred by Washington.

Thus, in the end, Congress may feel it has little choice but to go along. In any event, its formal approval is not required.

But Congress needs to warn the Administration that it is uneasy about being repeatedly confronted with sudden *ad hoc* military missions. The development and articulation of a comprehensive strategy is imperative if we are to avoid being stretched too thin in the face of other foreseeable, and militarily more dangerous, challenges.

Before any future deployments take place, we must be able to answer these questions: What consequences are we seeking to prevent? What goals are we seeking to achieve? In what way do they serve the national interest?

CLINTON has justified American troop deployments in Kosovo on the grounds that ethnic conflict in Yugoslavia threatens "Europe's stability and future." Other Administration spokesmen have compared the challenge to that of Hitler's threat to European security. Neither of these statements does justice to Balkan realities.

The proposed deployment in Kosovo does not deal with any threat to America's security as this concept has traditionally been conceived. The threatening escalations sketched by the president – to Macedonia or Greece and Turkey – are in the long run more likely to result from the emergence of a Kosovo state.

Nor is the Kosovo problem new. Ethnic conflict has been endemic in the Balkans for centuries. Waves of conquests have congealed divisions between ethnic groups and religions, between the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic faiths; between Christianity and Islam; between the heirs of the Austrian and the Ottoman Empires.

Through the centuries, these conflicts have been fought with unparalleled ferocity because none of the populations has any experience with – and essentially no belief in – Western concepts of toleration. Majority rule and compromise that underlie most of the proposals for a "solution" have never found an echo in the Balkans.

Moreover, the projected Kosovo agreement is unlikely to enjoy the support of the parties for a long period of time. For Serbia, acquiescing under the threat of NATO bombardment, it involves nearly unprecedented international intercession.

Yugoslavia, a sovereign state, is being asked to cede control, and in time sovereignty, of a province containing its national shrines to foreign military force. The analogy would be of America being asked to admit foreign troops to return the Alamo to Mexico because the ethnic balance in Texas has shifted.

Though President Slobodan Milosevic has much to answer for, especially in Bosnia, he is less the cause of the conflict in Kosovo than an expression of it. On the need to retain Kosovo, Serbian leaders – including Milosevic's domestic opponents – seem united. For Serbia, current NATO policy means either dismemberment of the country or postponement of the conflict to a future date when, according to the NATO proposal, the future of the province will be decided.

THE same attitude governs the Albanian side. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) is fighting for independence, not autonomy. But under the projected agreement, Kosovo, now an integral part of Serbia, is to be made an autonomous and self-governing entity within Serbia which, however, will remain responsible for external security and even exercise some unspecified internal police functions. A plebiscite at the end of three years is to determine the region's future.

The KLA is certain to try to use the cease-fire to expel the last Serbian influences from the province (since under the terms of the agreement, most Serbian security forces will be obliged to withdraw). And if NATO resists, it may come under attack itself – perhaps from both sides. What is described by the Administration as a "strong peace agreement" is likely to be, at best, the overture to another, far more complicated, set of conflicts.

Ironically, the projected peace agreement increases the likelihood of the various possible escalations sketched by the president as justification for a US deployment.

An independent Albanian Kosovo will surely seek to incorporate the neighboring Albanian minorities – mostly in Macedonia – and perhaps even Albania itself. And a Macedonian conflict would land us precisely back in the Balkan wars of earlier in this century.

Will Kosovo then become the precedent for a NATO move into Macedonia, just as the deployment in Bosnia is invoked as justification for the move into Kosovo? Is NATO to be the base for a whole series of Balkan NATO protectorates?

What confuses the situation even more is that the American missions in Bosnia and in Kosovo are justified by different, perhaps incompatible, objectives.

In Bosnia, American deployment is being promoted as a means to unite Croats, Moslems and Serbs into a single state. Serbs and Croats prefer to practice self-determination but are being asked to subordinate their preference to the geopolitical argument that a small Moslem Bosnian state would be too precarious and irredentist.

But in Kosovo, national self-determination is invoked to produce a tiny state nearly certain to be irredentist.

Since neither traditional concepts of the national interest nor US security impel the deployment, the ultimate justification is the laudable and very American goal of easing human suffering. This is why, in the end, I went along with the Dayton agreement in so far as it ended the war by separating the contending forces. But I cannot bring myself to endorse American ground forces in Kosovo.

IN Bosnia, the exit strategy can be described. The existing dividing lines can be made permanent. Failure to do so will require their having to be manned indefinitely unless we change our objective to self determination and permit each ethnic group to decide its own fate.

In Kosovo, that option does not exist. There are no ethnic dividing lines and both sides claim the entire territory. America's attitude toward the Serbs' attempts to insist on their claim has been made plain enough; it is the threat of bombing.

But how do we and NATO react to Albanian transgressions and irredentism? Are we prepared to fight both sides, and for how long? How do we avoid a creeping NATO deployment from one Balkan ethnic conflict to the next? In the face of issues such as these, the unity of the contact group of powers acting on behalf of NATO is likely to dissolve. Russia surely will increasingly emerge as the supporter of the Serbian point of view.

We must take care not to treat a humanitarian foreign policy as a magic and more attractive recipe for the basic problem of establishing priorities in foreign policy. The president's statements "that we can make a difference" and that "America symbolizes hope and resolve" are exhortations, not policy prescriptions. Does it mean that America's military power is available to enable every ethnic or religious group to achieve self-determination? Is NATO to become the artillery for ethnic conflict? If Kosovo, why not East Africa or Central Asia? And would a doctrine of universal humanitarian intervention reduce or increase suffering by intensifying ethnic and religious conflict?

What are the limits of such a policy and by what criteria are they established?

In my view, that line should be drawn at American ground forces for Kosovo. Europeans never tire of stressing the need for greater European autonomy. Here is an occasion to demonstrate it. If Kosovo presents a security problem, it is to Europe, largely because of the refugees the conflict might generate, as the president has pointed out.

Kosovo is no more a threat to America than Haiti was to Europe – and we never asked for NATO support. The nearly 300 million Europeans should be able to generate the ground forces to deal with 2.3 million Kosovars. To symbolize Allied unity on larger issues, we should provide logistics, intelligence and air support. But I see no need for US ground forces. Leadership should not be interpreted to mean that we must do everything ourselves.

SOONER or later, we must articulate the American capability to sustain a global policy. The failure to do so landed us in the Vietnam morass. Even if one stipulates an American strategic interest in Kosovo (which I do not) we must take care not to stretch ourselves too thin in the face of far less ambiguous threats in the Middle East and Northeast Asia.

For a decade, the Pentagon has been told that it must be prepared to fight two major regional wars simultaneously. For the same period, the Pentagon has asserted that it lacks the resources. Each incremental deployment into the Balkans is bound to weaken our ability to deal with Saddam Hussein and North Korea.

The psychological drain may be even more grave. Each time we make a peripheral deployment, the Administration is constrained to insist that the danger to American forces is minimal – the Kosovo deployment is officially described as a "peace implementation force."

Such comments have two unfortunate consequences: They increase the impression among Americans that military force can be used casualty-free (hence our increasing reliance on cruise missiles); and they send a signal of weakness to potential enemies, both in the immediate situation (Kosovo) and beyond. For in the end, our forces will be judged on how adequate they are for peace imposition, not peace implementation.

As someone who has all his public life advocated a strong American foreign policy, I am always inclined to support the incumbent administration in a forceful assertion of the national interest. And, as a passionate believer in the NATO alliance, I make the distinctions between European and American security interests in the Balkans with the utmost reluctance. But support for a strong foreign policy and strong NATO will surely evaporate if we fail to anchor them in a clear definition of the national interest and impart a sense of direction to our foreign policy in a period of turbulent change. (Los Angeles Times)

Mir's demise

By MAURA REYNOLDS

MOSCOW – There was a time when Konstantin Feoktistov didn't ask why. The cosmos were out there waiting, and he knew how to get there.

But now, the 73-year-old engineer and former cosmonaut, who was the brains and the force behind Russia's Mir space station, is troubled.

He's no longer quite sure what the point was.

"We got what we planned from the Mir," he said. "But we never got all we hoped." For the last 13 years, Russia has achieved something unprecedented in human history – it kept man continually in orbit around the Earth.

The Mir space station, for all its travails, remains the world's longest-running space mission.

On Saturday, Mir's 13th anniversary, a three-man crew widely expected to be the station's last blasted off from Russia's Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan.

If all goes as expected, two members of this new team will remain on Mir until Aug. 23 along with one of the current crew. And then they will close the hatch for the last time, head back to Earth and leave the space station to burn up in the atmosphere.

Russian space officials insist that Mir's fate is not yet sealed.

Private donors may yet be found to keep it running, they say. But as the situation stands now, the program will not be able to continue past August.

"This would be a somber event," space agency spokesman Vladimir Solovev said Saturday.

Indeed, many Russians will take Mir's demise hard.

THROUGH the last seven years of economic and political collapse, despite a near-fatal collision and sundry other glitches, Mir has remained a tangible and powerful sign of Russian scientific prowess.

But a costly one. Money is what is finally forcing the Russians to scrap the space station. And it is money that now gives Feoktistov pause.

"The technical achievements we made in space are successes for engineers," he said. "But it's not an achievement for taxpayers, who paid their money, for us engineers to play around with our gadgets and enjoy ourselves."

Feoktistov is a slight man with shiny white hair and with worry lines under his eyes. He fears that in the case of the international space station, known as Alpha, which is now under construction, once again engineers are building fancy machines without stopping to ask why.

"We never exactly knew what fish we were trying to catch," he said. "And that's why we didn't know what kind of net to use. When we started to focus our research on Mir, it was because we thought we needed a bigger net. But space turned out to be too big for a net of any size.

"I used to believe in the big-net principle," he continued. "Not anymore. The Alpha station is just a repetition of what we did, on a larger scale."

Feoktistov's views are not shared by either the Russian Space Agency or NASA.

Russian space officials rattle off Mir's achievements: more than 16,500 experiments, 600 new technologies, 100 astronauts and cosmonauts. At 16 orbits a day over 13 years, Mir has passed around the Earth nearly 76,000 times. Space Agency Director Yuri N. Koptev said it could keep flying another two or three years.

But Koptev acknowledged that the government does not have the $250 million it costs each year to operate the station. And his hopes that a private investor would foot the bill have turned out to be "wishful thinking."

For its part, NASA has long considered Mir to be a drain on the Russian space program, sucking up financial resources needed to build the international space station.

Russia has fallen more than a year behind schedule on the new station project, and space officials have acknowledged that the next module may be another three months late, going up in September instead of June.

"They can't afford to operate two stations at the same time," said John Pike, director of space policy at the Federation of American Scientists. "For the last five years, Mir has been a test bed for the new station. That's the only thing that has kept it in orbit this long."

(Los Angeles Times)



A three-man crew widely expected to be the station's last blasted off from Russia's Baikonur space center Saturday. (AP)

Muckraking media sweep China

By HENRY CHU

BEIJING – The odd thing wasn't that Bill Clinton shirked his income taxes, but that he paid them. What was the leader of the free world doing forking over money in China's poverty-ridden Anhui province? And it wasn't just Clinton, local tax receipts showed. Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin also coughed up his share. So did the first emperor of China, who expired in 210 B.C. but has managed to prove that death and taxes can plague a person at the same time.

What's going on? Fraud, said the reporter on *Focus*, an investigative news show that has become one of China's hottest television programs. Tax officials in Anhui invented taxpayers – some of them world-famous personages – and faked receipts to make it appear to their superiors that they had collected millions of yuan, which turned out not to exist.

The episode was the latest in the show's catalog of exposes, watched nightly by 300 million viewers.

Focus is just the leading edge of a wave of muckraking journalism sweeping China.

Much as programs such as *60 Minutes* and *Dateline NBC* have multiplied across the US prime-time landscape, investigative-style news shows are proliferating here, part of a tentative flirtation with greater media freedom in a land where expression has long been tightly supervised.

Like their US counterparts, the Chinese programs are ratings-grabbers with slick graphics and catchy names, such as *News Probe*, *Oriental Horizon* and *Beijing Express*. Reporters use hidden cameras and in-your-face interview tactics to unearth petty corruption, consumer chicanery and other illegal goings-on.

Producers pick hot-button topics likely to appeal to an audience that is increasingly angry with an unscrupulous government and uncertain about how to navigate China's new consumerist society.

BUT unlike US programs, the Chinese shows operate in a country where the media remain closely scrutinized and controlled by the state. This has forced journalists to strike a delicate balance between digging deep and staying on the right side of the Communist leadership, especially with a renewed crackdown on politically "subversive" publications.

"The government is allowing a lot more freedom of expression" than it has in years past, said Stanley Rosen, a Sinologist at the University of Southern California. But "there are clear restraints."

Still taboo is anything questioning the wisdom of the central government or its grip on power. Even the more adventurous media hew largely to the government's agenda, which includes stamping out corruption and encouraging exposure of official misdeeds.

Sensitive topics such as military policy are strictly off-limits.

While the investigative shows gleefully nail small-time Communist cadres, national leaders are portrayed only in flattering terms.

There is still room to push gently at boundaries and reshape the delivery and content of news, away from Communist dogma and toward China's more consumer-oriented economy.

"These investigative shows are a hybrid: entertainment along with serious journalistic efforts," said Judy Polumbaum, a University of Iowa expert on the Chinese media.

Instead of endlessly spouting Maoist doctrine, the new TV newsmagazine programs concentrate on such subjects as medical malpractice, get-rich-quick schemes, how to get legal help and China's worsening pollution.

Consider "The 'Servant' Loses the Family Fortune," a recent *Focus* episode shot in the central province of Hubei.

The crew traveled to the village of Shishi to find out why its electricity and water supply had been cut. Villagers were adamant that they had paid all their fees, but they had no idea where their money had gone until a little digging turned up a stash of suspicious purchases by the local party secretary, a man named Wang.

The cameras caught up with Wang outside his office, literally backing him against a wall.

The reporter peppered him with questions in Mike Wallace fashion: Who approved the 30,000 yuan to buy cell phones? Especially at a time "when local people were in the midst of economic hardship"? "I ... I didn't tell anybody," Wang stammered. "I decided myself... I don't remember clearly." His questioner waved receipts for other purchases that Wang "perhaps remembers even less clearly." The expensive car never mentioned to the village committee. Countless meals out for "official business."

In some ways, the government benefits from such shows; it can siphon off some public anger about corruption, which often ranks as the No. 1 grievance among ordinary Chinese.

Another benefit is money, which is of major concern now that the government-subsidized media outlets are under pressure to pay more of their own way.

Although *Focus* is produced somewhat independently, staffers acknowledge that they must take heed of the government, which sometimes assigns specific stories or criticizes others.

During the summer, the program ran glowing reports on the efforts of the People's Liberation Army to fight China's devastating floods.

"We have a standard: to be liked from above and below," one source close to the show said. Success is "if Mom and Pop like it, and if Zhongnanhai (the central government compound) likes it."

The concept of the media as a public watchdog is taking limited root here, especially among younger journalists, media observers say.

"There's a better understanding of freedom of the press these days," agreed James Zhang, a producer who has worked with China Central Television network, or CCTV, on its investigative shows.

But criticism of officials and policies above the provincial level remains out of bounds.

The media, long considered the "throat and tongue" of the Communist Party, are waiting to see if the government issues a much-debated media law that may offer a measure of protection for the media's right to criticize officialdom. Some journalists fear that the law might also spell out "obligations" to support the government that would restrict, rather than empower, them in doing their jobs. (Los Angeles Times)



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صكذا من الأصل

Report: Ocalan admits receiving weapons, training from Greece

ANKARA (AP) – A Turkish newspaper yesterday claimed imprisoned rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan has told interrogators that Greece gave his guerrilla army weapons and training, a claim Athens in the past has denied.

Meanwhile, Turkey's president forcefully warned Greece against supporting the Kurdish insurgents.

"If Greece chooses to continue with its illegal actions, we retain our right to take the necessary precautions for our right to self-defense which arises from international law," the state-run Anatolia news agency quoted Suleyman Demirel as telling Philippine television while on a visit to Manila.

Ocalan, captured in Kenya a week ago and taken to a Turkish prison island, is expected to stand trial for waging a 15-year war of insurrection that has claimed around 37,000 lives. He could face the death penalty.

The Ocalan affair has inflamed tensions between rivals Greece and Turkey, which have nearly gone to war several times over various territorial disputes.

The national daily *Hurriyet* said Ocalan provided interrogators with details about Greek military aid to his movement, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

"Greece has for years supported the PKK movement. They even gave us arms and rockets. Greek officers gave guerrilla training and explosives training to our militants" at a camp in Lavrion, Greece, *Hurriyet* quoted Ocalan as having told interrogators.

Hurriyet said the interrogation sessions were being videotaped, but did not say how it had obtained the statements, which could not be independently verified.

Ocalan, the sole inmate on the island, was being questioned by prosecutors without an attorney present, a step that has drawn criticism from international human rights activists.

Turkey has frequently alleged that Greece provides backing to the PKK, which Ankarra – like the United States – considers a terrorist group.

There was no immediate response to the latest allegations in Greece, where yesterday was a public holiday, but Greece has rejected such claims in the past.

Lavrion, the site purportedly mentioned by Ocalan, is a UN refugee center, housing mainly Kurdish refugees from Turkey. In response to past Turkish allegations, the camp has been examined repeatedly by international observers, who were unable to substantiate charges it served as a military training center for the PKK.

Hurriyet said Ocalan had also told investigators of Greek assistance during five months of wandering as he attempted to find a country that would give him asylum. Just prior to being seized by Turkish commandos, he had been sheltering at the Greek ambassador's residence in Nairobi.

Turkey has been harshly critical of Greece's assistance to Ocalan while he was a fugitive, and is demanding some form of censure of Greece by the European Union, of which Greece is a member but Turkey is not.

The EU said yesterday it would keep a close watch on Turkey to see if it grants Ocalan a fair trial.

Anatolia also quoted Demirel as saying Greece "has to be included in a list of countries that support terrorism." Ocalan has not yet to be formally arrested or charged in this case. At the time of his capture, he was already on trial in absentia on terrorism charges.

Albright pressures Albanians to sign accord

By JEFFREY ULBRICH

RAMBOUILLET, France – US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright pressured ethnic Albanians yesterday to sign a Kosovo peace accord, so the full focus of diplomacy could be aimed at the recalcitrant Serbs.

Albright's spokesman, James Rubin, said the future of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army remained a sticking point for the ethnic Albanians. Under the proposed three-year interim plan, the KLA would be disarmed.

The ethnic Albanian delegation, made up of KLA members as well as more moderate politicians, was apparently split on the disarmament issue.

Their demand for a referendum on independence was still the major obstacle, he said.

"Kosovo Albanians continue to move forward toward an agreement," Rubin said. "The Serbs are not engaged seriously on the military part, which is an integral part of the agreement."

Serb negotiators say they are prepared to sign a deal giving Kosovo Albanians wide autonomy. But they refuse a military annex to the agreement that calls for up to 30,000 NATO troops to enforce the deal in Kosovo, where 90 percent of the population is ethnic Albanian.

That position threatens to be the deal-breaker, and could result in NATO air strikes on Serbia.

Serbian President Milan Milutinovic arrived at the 14th-century chateau where the negotiations are being held, and was was scheduled to meet with Albright.

During a stroll around central Rambouillet Monday, Milutinovic echoed sentiments over the weekend in which he seemed to indicate the Serbs would be willing to talk about the military issue – after a political deal.

"I said to you before that we may discuss the scope and character of that (a military presence) after the agreement," he told reporters. "After that we can discuss implementation." It was not clear if his comments represented a real change in the Serb position.

Milutinovic said nothing has changed in the negotiations, and that the Serbs were ready to sign the political agreement as it stood on Saturday.

Albright has said the political and military issues can't be split.

"The Serbian side believes it can have half a deal," she said Sunday. "There are not two documents. There is one document with two parts to it." Meanwhile, heavy fighting broke out between ethnic Albanian guerrillas and Yugoslav security forces in northern Kosovo yesterday.

Hundreds of refugees fled the clashes, which broke out at around 8 a.m. near the villages of Pantina and Okrastica and lasted about three hours.

(News agencies)



Ethnic Albanian villagers flee fighting in Pantina, 30km. northeast of the Kosovo regional capital Pristina yesterday. (Reuters)

Iraq: Reports of Shi'ite riots unfounded

BAGHDAD, (Reuters) – Iraq yesterday denied reports of riots after exiled opposition groups said hundreds had been killed in Baghdad in protests over the assassination of a leading Moslem Shi'ite cleric last week.

"We emphasize once again (that) what the media and anti-Iraq groups call riots in a number of Iraqi provinces are a figment of the imagination," Iraqi News Agency Director General Uday al-Ta'ie told a news conference.

"These claims are baseless and false." Opposition groups in exile have reported that riots erupted in Baghdad and in southern Iraq, mostly populated by the Shi'ite majority, after the murder of Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadeq Sadr and his two sons late on Friday.

In Tehran, the Shi'ite-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said hundreds of people had been killed in the capital alone.

"In the biggest district of Baghdad, which is mostly Shi'ite, 300 people have been killed in the last two or three days," said spokesman Abul Hassan Salah.

The London-based Arabic-language paper Al-Hayat said 25 people had been killed and 50 injured in confrontations between protesters and security forces in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, US warplanes bombed Iraqi military sites yesterday after being targeted by Iraqi radar in the northern "no-fly" zone, the US military said.

Iraq said that US warplanes attacked Iraqi defense sites in both the north and south, killing one civilian in the south and injuring two in the northern zone.

The official Iraqi News Agency, quoting an unnamed military spokesman, said the US planes carried out 53 sorties in the south and attacked civilian installations and some military sites.

WORLD

in brief

20,000 skiers stuck in Austria, army flies in

VIENNA (Reuters) – Some 20,000 tourists were trapped in western Austrian ski resorts yesterday as heavy snow buried road and rail links and raised the threat of avalanches.

The army sent 12 helicopters to the endangered provinces of Tyrol and Vorarlberg and had already airlifted out around 150 people by midday yesterday. But airlifts in certain areas, such as the popular Arlberg resorts of Lech and Zners as well as Ischgl and Galtuer, were impossible because of further heavy snowfalls on top of the more than 2.5 metres that fell in the last six days.

Most of the tourists were Germans, followed by Dutch and Swiss.

British doctor accused of murdering 15

MANCHESTER, England (Reuters) – A British doctor who has already been accused of murdering eight of his patients was charged yesterday with the murder of seven more.

Dr. Harold Shipman, 52, who worked as a family doctor near the northern city of Manchester, is now accused of killing 15 of his elderly female patients.

In the first murder case against him last year, Shipman was accused of killing a former patient and forging her will to make himself the sole beneficiary of her $500,000 estate. The investigation began when the patient's daughter contacted police after discovering that her mother's will had been altered two weeks before her death.

US official meets Russia leaders over Kosovo

MOSCOW (AP) – The visiting US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott met with Russian officials yesterday amid growing American-Russian friction over Kosovo and other issues.

Talbott and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov "expressed concern over the fact that the temperature in Russian-US relations has dropped of late," said the mayor's aide, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

A US Embassy official, who requested anonymity, said that Talbott discussed security issues with the Russians, but declined to give additional details. The Americans say that NATO warplanes are prepared to strike in Yugoslavia if that country fails to reach a peace deal with Kosovo Albanians by tomorrow. Russia, an ally of Yugoslavia, staunchly opposes the use of force.

Suharto son charged with corruption

JAKARTA (AP) – A son of former President Suharto has been charged with corruption, along with a former senior official and another businessman, an Indonesian official said yesterday.

The case was handed over to prosecutors on Friday, said Antonius Sujata, a junior attorney general for special crimes. Prosecutors have seven days to decide whether they have enough evidence against the men to proceed to trial, Suyata said.

"If found guilty, the three could face a maximum penalty of 20 years," Sujata said.

The charges against Hutomo Mandala Putra, popularly known as Tommy Suharto, involve a 1997 land deal. The first in Suharto's family to face charges, though the regime was accused of rampant cronyism, he denies any wrongdoing.

More arrests in hunt for N. Irish bombers

BELFAST (Reuters) – Police holding seven people for questioning about Northern Ireland's worst bombing in the town of Omagh last August detained several more suspects yesterday. The arrests were made in British-ruled Northern Ireland. On Sunday police north and south of the border swooped in early morning raids, detaining five people in the Irish Republic and two in Northern Ireland.

Twenty-nine people were killed in the Omagh explosion and more than 200 seriously wounded. The attack, designed to wreck peace efforts in the province, was carried out by dissident republicans in the so-called "Real IRA".

COURT

Continued from Page 1

The agreement was never signed. The Reform and Conservative representatives on the committee refused to do so because it was not endorsed by the Chief Rabbinate and because the chief rabbis refused to meet with them face-to-face.

In a related development, Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri said on Army Radio yesterday of Barak: "I am jealous of the Supreme Court president. I have never seen a rabbi with so many followers who is above being questioned. There is a new secular religion and Justice Aharon Barak – the rebbe from Rehavia – is its rabbi."

SHEETRIT

Continued from Page 1

"But I think a slap in the face of the voters ultimately could cause a situation in which the voters don't carry out the wishes of the person who hit them," Shalom said.

At the press conference Netanyahu said, "I believe in [Sheetrit's] capabilities and experience. He has been a public figure for some 25 years and is one of the most veteran MKs. He comes from the people; was a mayor [of Yavne] for many years; was Jewish Agency treasurer; was coalition whip; and knows economic problems inside out; knows budgets and the true problems of where he has come from."

Sheetrit said he looked upon the job as one of tremendous responsibility. "And I will – heaven forbid – do nothing hastily or irresponsibly."

Sheetrit recently went down in local media history by dramatically holding a press conference not too long ago to say he had not been appointed finance minister. Yesterday he said the appointment was made "because of my merits, not as a favor."

Netanyahu invited both Sheetrit and Shalom to his office to speak with them before making the announcement in public.

Finance Ministry officials are believed to be satisfied with the choice partly because of the need to have a minister after several months in which the premier has held the position but has not been available full-time, and partly because they have worked closely with Sheetrit in the past as coalition whip and during budget debates.

Sheetrit said he is in favor of a free market and liberalization "with one condition: The government must look out for the weak." It is considered unlikely that Sheetrit will make drastic moves in the three months remaining until elections both because of the lack of time and also because he will not want to ruin his chances of getting the post in a later Likud-led government. He himself said he would not take radical steps "and I won't carry out election economics."

The Labor Party responded to Sheetrit's appointment with a statement saying it hopes Sheetrit "will not be Netanyahu's puppet and will learn from the painful experience of [previous finance minister] Yaakov Neeman who failed to protect the public coffers in the face of a prime minister who gave out preferential benefits to pressure groups."

Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai said the appointment is several months too late and should have been made after Neeman resigned.

Histadrut leader Amir Peretz, who is leading a workers' party, said the test of the new finance minister would be whether he manages to change the policy of supporting the employers who propose only low cost-of-living increases to workers. Peretz said the Histadrut would not yield on its demands regarding salary agreements in the public sector and would judge Sheetrit according to his actions.

In other moves, Netanyahu yesterday drew up the Likud election campaign team. Shalom's name is noticeably absent from the top positions here too.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat will again head the advertising and information campaign as she did in the successful 1996 campaign. Despite her open criticism of Netanyahu in recent months, she said she does not have a problem presenting him to the public.

"I am convinced that Netanyahu is the right leader at this time for Israel," she told reporters.

LAUDER

Continued from Page 1

The memorandum, it added, "is contingent upon the approval of the US Administration," and that RSL-COM has asked the US Treasury for it to be approved.

In another development, Lauder's Central European Media Enterprises, was sued by a competing media concern, which accused Lauder's company of acting illegally to secure a television license in Ukraine two years ago, and suggested that it may have bribed officials. Named as a co-conspirator is Vadim Rabinovich, Lauder's partner in Ukraine. Rabinovich, who spent nine years in a Soviet prison, has not been able to enter the US because intelligence officials say he is linked to Russian organized crime.

A spokesman for Central European Media, Jerry Buckland, denied any illegality in the Ukrainian deal.

RSL, which declined to say how much the Yugoslav deal was worth, also denied any impropriety.

"Our belief is that we have not violated the sanctions," said Avery Fischer, legal counsel for RSL, a publicly traded company based in Bermuda. RSL told the Treasury Department that the deal is not an investment as defined by the sanctions law, and that if it is, it is subject to an exemption, the Times reported.

Fischer also said the company had received approval for the deal from someone in the State Department, but said he could not recall the person's name.

The Times said the US Treasury Department had not approved the deal, which it learned about from an article in a government newspaper in Belgrade three months after the agreement was signed.

In May, RSL signed a deal to provide international telephone services in the Republic of Srpska, the Serbian-controlled section of Bosnia, which has been shunned by most foreign investors, the Times said.

There was some suspicion about a telecommunications conference Lauder had attended last year in Belgrade, at which he met with a senior Yugoslav official and businessman, Zoran Lilic. A Lauder spokesman said he talked with Lilic about the Jewish community in Belgrade, not about business.

BAD NEWS

Continued from Page 1

With inflation firmly in low single-digit territory, unemployment clearly deflected from the double-digit danger zone where it seemed headed only a year ago, and the balance of payments looking far prettier than it did under the previous government, Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak's doomsday sloganeering can hardly impress the reasonably well-off middle classes.

It is, to be sure, designed to woo the working classes, but those will now be presented with a real-life, rags-to-riches, self-made role model in the shape of Sheetrit.

Amazingly, Sheetrit is both a carbon-copy and an antithesis of Barak's unofficial shadow treasurer, Avraham Shohat. Like the former finance minister whose political career began as mayor of Arad and then meandered to the chairmanship of the Knesset Finance Committee, Sheetrit started off as a provincial mayor in Gan Yavne and then ended being Treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

However, in terms of their lineage the two part ways: Shohat entered Israel's old socialist elite through his marriage to PM Levi Eshkol's daughter, whereas Moroccan-born Sheetrit had to elbow his way to power by unseating, back in 1973, the Mapai mayor of his town.

Sheetrit and Shohat also differ markedly on economics. Whereas the latter is seen by economists and business people as the epitome of spendthrift socialism, which in 1994 resulted in a supplementary budget and by 1996 generated an astronomical $5.1 billion current-account deficit, the former is no less Milton Friedmanite than Netanyahu; Sheetrit supports his predecessor Yaakov Ne'eman's tax-cut plan, has challenged – as coalition chairman – small-party attempts to breach the budget-deficit target, and has generally avoided joining the weak-shekel bandwagon of Jacob Frenkel-bashers.

Now, with the '99 budget passed and a mere three months left until the elections, Sheetrit has little to do as finance minister other than bicker with the Histadrut over the next wage agreements. The likelihood of him dedicating his time to flaunting his humble origins and conservative economics as Likud's reply to Labor's tax-and-spend economics is high. Chances of Labor failing even to detect his challenge, let alone meet it – by picking a more conservative shadow treasurer like former Koor CEO Benjamin Gaon or economist Haim Ben-Shahar – are even higher.

ANSWER

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu, however, had several reasons for preferring Sheetrit. The technical pretext is that Sheetrit is a far more veteran MK, while Shalom already has a portfolio, albeit a minor one. Sheetrit, it can be argued, is more deserving of a promotion.

But Netanyahu had other calculations in mind. Sheetrit is an impressive campaigner. There are few who can equal his skills. Even Labor's star, Shlomo Ben-Ami, is bested by the quick-witted Sheetrit.

The new finance minister-designate also has a boyish mischievous grin, plenty of charm, persuasiveness and the gift of the gab. To have someone like him embittered, and perhaps seething on the sidelines without taking an active role in the campaign, is more than a waste from Netanyahu's point of view. It is a danger to him.

On the other hand, to have a motivated, energized Sheetrit enthusiastically throwing his full political weight into the campaign is an asset. Sheetrit is an intuitive campaigner of the caliber that can actually make a difference.

Then there is the consideration of image. Netanyahu reaches several sectors of his electorate with this one move. Sheetrit can appeal to the poorest Sephardi voters. He is not hampered by Ben-Ami's professorial, "Ashkenazified" air. Sheetrit can speak about his underprivileged youth and make his listener feel party to his achievement. He already did so in his and Netanyahu's press conference yesterday.

With someone like Sheetrit near the top of the cabinet hierachy, Netanyahu can dismiss his critics' derision about how Ashkenazi the government's leadership is. Not only is the top of his list full of Sephardim, but his cabinet has a Sephardi in one of the most important roles.

Like Ben-Ami, Sheetrit is another Sephardi whom Ashkenazim love to love. He appeals to many of them with his twinkling blue eyes and his ultra-moderate political positions. Sheetrit is without a doubt the Likud's outstanding dove, a fact which has not endeared him to the Revisionist veterans and to hawkish coalition partners like the NRP.

Both are likely to squawk about his appointment, though they may not dare rock the boat so soon before the elections. For the meanwhile, what riles them about Sheetrit, is precisely what makes him an electoral asset to Netanyahu. Sheetrit can be his man to appeal to the undecided who might be floating between the Likud and Labor, or who may be heading for the Center Party to vote for Yitzhak Mordechai.

Those Likud waverers leaning in Mordechai's direction, may find Sheetrit pulling them back – both the Sephardim among them and the moderates. This is a sort of combination which no other would-be finance minister could grant Netanyahu, though he runs the risk of not being able to secure a Knesset majority for the appointment. If he does, Netanyahu could win the jackpot, but only on condition that malcontents do not aggressively kick it out of his reach before he makes the grab for the great prize.

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Internal paralysis

With the National Religious Party having completed forming its Knesset list, the choice before the voters in the upcoming elections is becoming clearer. Israeli voters will have the option of selecting parties along a clean spectrum, ranging from Meretz on the left, Labor in the center-left, the new Center party somewhere in the middle, the Likud in the center-right slot, the NRP representing the religious right, and various parties farther to the right, such as Moledet and Herut, who might still combine to form a single bloc. How the voters choose to cast their ballots with respect to this lineup will give a clear indication of where the political winds are shifting.

The NRP itself, however, is far from presenting a clear message on a number of issues, as compared to the past. To be sure, in the new list voted on by its central committee on Sunday, hawks were pushed down the list, while three new moderate candidates, including a woman, were elected to the top 10 positions. The NRP is certainly presenting the voters in the upcoming Knesset elections with a different list than the one it had in at least the last three elections. Yet at the same time, its message is a mixed one and overall it appears to be a party groping for positions as it grapples with internal divisions and divergent opinions.

It is actually very fitting that the changes coursing through Israeli politics should find expression in the NRP, because the party and movement – deliberately established to bridge the religious and secular worlds, to be committed both to Torah and the state – straddle so many of the fault lines running through Israeli society.

The question of the final disposition of the borders of the state is far from having been settled, and there is still a long road ahead in conducting the permanent status negotiations with the Palestinians. Nevertheless, there is a palpable sense that "the question", which so dominated Israeli politics for 30 years that pundits took to quipping that Israel was "a question with its own state", is not going to monopolize the central stage much longer. In an age in which even Likud governments willingly sign agreements involving IDF redeployments from parts of the West Bank, the ideology of the Land of Israel which the NRP in recent years turned into its almost exclusive standard bearer is increasingly being seen as an old position passionately held by only a small percentage of the electorate.

Letting go of an emotionally charged dream in favor of an instrumentalist and pragmatic approach is not an easy act for any movement to undertake, but the NRP stepped in that direction when it pushed its most notable Land of Israel champion, MK Hanan Porat, to an unrealistic 11th slot, making it unlikely he will return to the Knesset where he has served nearly 20 years.

Ironically, it was Porat who led the push in the Knesset to bring down the Netanyahu government in punishment for its signing of the Wye River Memorandum with the Palestinians, bringing about the early elections which are probably going to bring his political career to an end.

On the other hand, an NRP led by Education Minister Yitzhak Levy is not the NRP of Dr. Yosef Burg either, or even of the late Zevulun Hammer. The NRP, it appears, is still grappling within itself with the question of how to adapt to the changing conditions in Israeli politics and has not yet found an unequivocal voice. The first four slots on its Knesset list reflect this ambiguity perfectly, with Levy, Transportation Minister Shaul Yahalom, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Yigal Bibi and Zevulun Orlev comprising a hawk-dove-hawk-dove opening foursome.

In addition, the NRP still appears to be seeking clear direction in a number of other major issues confronting Israeli society. It would seem that the NRP is quite progressive with regard to the issue of lack of Sephardi representation, given that its leader, Levy, is of Sephardi descent, but the party's list overall is very heavily Ashkenazi. This could hurt its chances at the polls while further strengthening Shas, which originally broke away from the established religious parties precisely because of a sense that Sephardim were being systematically prevented from occupying leading positions.

But it is in relation to questions involving the role of Judaism in Israeli society and the practical coexistence of secular and religious Jews in a state that defines itself as both Jewish and democratic – issues which most Israelis regard as being the most serious ones currently facing society – that the NRP could play a most positive role, yet is paralyzed by its own internal divisions. This was evident most clearly last week, when the national-religious public found itself torn and tongue-tied in response to the opposing demonstrations for and against the activist role of the Supreme Court with respect to religious legislation. The competing camps within the NRP – and the national-religious public in general – one pulling it towards becoming more of a haredi-style party and the other seeking to re-establish the NRP's historically more "modern" style, were both in evidence at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds on Sunday. Neither side has yet been able to establish its position as being representative of the NRP.

With the NRP unfortunately unable to play the historic role it set for itself as a bridge between religious and secular, it is no surprise that Meimad, a moderate religious movement that a decade ago was unable to win a single Knesset seat, has recently seen its political stock rising and is being wooed by more than one major political party.

Virtual success

YOSSI BEILIN

If Binyamin Netanyahu is not elected to another term as prime minister he will certainly be able to devote his time to writing the Israeli answer to Dale Carnegie's famous book on winning friends and influencing people. With his particular talent, he succeeded last week in placing Israel in three uncomfortable situations, none of which was unavoidable.

First – vis-a-vis the Americans. The close relations between the Palestinians and the American administration is something positive, to be encouraged by Israel, on condition that it is not at Israel's expense. Netanyahu however, has excluded himself from this triangle.

In real life, outside the TV studio, Netanyahu loses his cool when things don't turn out quite the way he planned

For the second time in a month, Arafat will be meeting President Bill Clinton. Not only has Netanyahu not been invited to these summit meetings, his Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, has not seen the secretary of state, even though he is in the US. Even if the threats to delay aid to Israel because of its non-fulfillment of the Wye Memorandum are not realized, they have brought Israel-American relations – which are one of our most important strategic assets – to a low point unparalleled in recent years.

Then there was Russia.

The Likud leaders had criticized the previous government, claiming that its relations with Russia were too cool. They were determined to improve these relations.

They began this with an extended period during which the Netanyahu government did not manage to appoint an ambassador to Russia, continued with fewer reciprocal visits, and led finally to Russian policy being extremely critical of the Netanyahu government. Russia's votes in the UN on issues relating to Israel are reminiscent of the behavior of the USSR during those terrible bygone years.

Netanyahu can take credit for some of this deterioration, which reached a new peak just a few days ago in a warm letter sent by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Syria's Hafez Assad, and in the agreement being drawn up for the supply of Russian weapons worth $2 billion to Syria.

After years during which Assad was among the most vociferous opponents of the new Russian regime, the renewed Russia-Syria axis is becoming a strategic problem for Israel, one that is intensifying before our very eyes without anyone in the government being capable of even attempting to changing the course of events.

THE third incident involves the Kurds and the PKK underground movement.

Over the last few years, Israel has invested considerable efforts in cultivating good relations with Turkey without becoming embroiled in the Kurdish problem, so as not to add the Kurds to our list of enemies. The stupid, hasty response of the Prime Minister's Office following the disclosure that PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan was in Kenya made Israel an immediate suspect as a collaborator in the manhunt.

By the time this was denied, the original, incriminating response had done its damage. Everything that followed – the violence, the shooting of the Kurdish demonstrators in an effort to save Israel's diplomatic staff, and the additional tension created by this clash – are all the direct result of a lack of political sensitivity on the part of the system led by Netanyahu.

The prime minister takes great pride in his rapid response when he sits opposite the lights in the TV studio. He does not get confused when interviewed by a tough talk-show host; he is not disturbed by the audience and his timing is always on target: Anything of any importance always takes place at eight in the evening.

What a pity that in real life, in events which take place outside the protected studio, he loses his cool every time things don't turn out quite the way he planned: from the videocassette episode to the events surrounding the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit to the botched attempt to assassinate Khaled Mashaal and the release of Sheikh Yassin.

The events of the last week are a further reminder of Netanyahu's mistakes outside the studio. Perhaps in the virtual world he is a master communicator, but in the real world we are the ones who pay for his mistakes, and the price is real damage to Israel's security.

Dry Bones



There's gotta be a law!

EVELYN GORDON

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's latest proposal for resolving haredi grievances against the Supreme Court – the establishment of a committee to search for compromise solutions to which both sides can agree – may be no more than an election ploy aimed at keeping the haredim happy until May 17. If so, than at least it will be of some use to somebody.

As a vehicle for actually solving the problem, however, it is hard to imagine anything more useless.

Netanyahu's idea is that a small committee, consisting of representatives of the religious community and former Supreme Court justices or other leading jurists, could agree on certain guidelines restricting the court's involvement in church-state issues. There are two serious flaws in this approach.

The first, and most obvious, is that Supreme Court President Aharon Barak would never accept the committee's conclusions – and, from his perspective, rightly so. Barak's judicial philosophy, as he expressed it in a 1992 article, is that "Every human behavior is subject to a legal norm. There are no acts (of commission or omission) to which the law does not apply."

Under such a philosophy, to deliberately choose not to rule on an issue – to be silent in a case where the law, as it does in all cases, has something to say – would be a betrayal of his trust as a judge. Barak could never accept a compromise that would require him to cold-bloodedly commit such a betrayal.

And this is also the root of the second flaw in Netanyahu's proposal: The fact that the court's intervention in religious issues is a symptom, not the disease, and therefore cannot be treated independently. The disease is not the court's rulings on any particular issue, but the philosophy that makes such rulings possible: the philosophy that says there are no acts to which the law does not apply.

It's silly that a statute is necessary to establish that 'unreasonable' isn't the same as 'illegal.' But if Aharon Barak needs this, so be it

Any code of law is necessarily finite. The result is that there are always many areas where the written law is silent. But for someone who believes the law can never be silent, this creates an existential contradiction. The only way to resolve this contradiction, given Barak's philosophy, is for the court itself to create legal norms to fill the lacunae in the written law.

THIS is precisely what the court has done through it use of tests such as the reasonability standard. The reasonability test – that any action considered by the justices to be "unreasonable in the extreme" is ipso facto illegal – exists no place in the laws passed by the Knesset; it was a creation of the justices themselves. And it does exactly what it was meant to do: It enables the justices to pass judgment on any issue, even when the written law is silent, simply by comparing it to their own standards of what is "unreasonable in the extreme."

This test is, of course, highly undemocratic, since it allows an unelected court to substitute its own opinions of what is reasonable for those of the elected government, or even those of the electorate itself.

But this is a problem only for people who believe there are questions the law is not equipped to answer. To a worldview which holds that the law can answer every question, the assertion that value judgments about the nature of society should be decided democratically would be as silly as saying we should take a vote on whether two plus two really equals four. Compromise on this issue would therefore be impossible for the Barak court.

This does not, however, mean that the dispute is unresolvable – because even Barak acknowledges that there are areas in which the court should not intervene. The trick, however – as he wrote in his 1992 article –, is that these areas exist not by their inherent nature, but "because [such areas are] recognized by the law."

Barak cannot be persuaded to betray his trust as a judge by letting the law remain silent – but if the law itself calls for the court to remain silent, it would be hard for him to ignore its dictates. The solution, therefore, is not a dialogue committee, but concrete legislation on the rules of judicial interpretation.

This should include rules on standing (who has the right to petition the court, and in what circumstances), justiciability (when a topic is or is not appropriate for judicial decision), and the types of legal criteria that can be applied in a judgment (such as the whether the reasonability standard is a valid test).

It is rather humiliating to admit that a law is necessary to enforce a truism such as that "unreasonable" – even "unreasonable in the extreme" – is not the same as "illegal."

Yet the current court's judicial philosophy leaves no other choice. Where the law is silent, the court will step in to fill the gap. So on this crucial issue, the law must not be silent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JEWISH BELIEFS

Sir, – Much of our religious controversy could be avoided if we were to ask the right question – instead of "Who is a Jew?," we should concentrate more on "What is a Jew?" Rabbi Swift gave a succinct answer to the latter question many years ago in a lecture to the Jewish Students' Society at Imperial College (London). He said that, to be a Jew, one must perform four acts of faith by believing in the following: 1. There is one God. 2. God created Heaven and Earth. 3. God gave the Torah at Sinai. 4. He also gave the Oral Law (Halachah) to Moses at Sinai.

The first three beliefs are held by adherents to all of the three great monotheistic religions. A Jew believes also in the fourth.

DR. RALPH CHAYEN

Petah Tikva.

NOT AMUSING

Sir, – Ariela Jacobs (Letters, February 12) decries the haredi "...able bodied men who are too holy to make an honest living by honest work." She and your readers may be amused to hear that the 1995 Penguin Dictionary of Jokes quotes: "He was very religious. He wouldn't work if there was a Sabbath (Sunday) in the week." Or perhaps it's not that amusing when applied by the thousands.

YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

Haifa.

STIFF SENTENCE

Sir, – I drive slowly. Back in 1955 the speed limit was 50 kph (for trucks) and 30 kph in town. I was caught twice, for speeding, at 60 and 35. The judge wanted me to feel the punishment. So I lost my license for six months and spent 10 days in jail, as well as 25 days suspended sentence for three years.

So where is the feeling of punishment for Egged drivers today?

EZRA FEIN

Ein Harod Ihud.

RECKLESS BEHAVIOR

Sir, – You have recently published letters very critical of Egged after the 405 bus accident which killed a passenger and the driver. Road accidents have many causes, but driving 10 kph above the limit on a clear road is not one of them.

Consider:

Egged drives far more than the average driver. On a kilometer basis, their record is excellent.

Does anybody really think that a single previous accident should disqualify a driver? That would surely empty the roads, so maybe it is an idea.

There should be an additional speed limit, lower than the present, for wet roads. A safe speed on a dry road is dangerous on a wet surface.

You recently reported an accident caused by a driver having 41 previous convictions. The guilty parties are in court – sitting behind the judges' benches. Why didn't the courts revoke that driving license long ago?

It is reckless behavior of all types which causes accidents. That includes thoughtless driving at any speed.

Y. FEUST

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On February 23, 1934, *The Palestine Post* reported a big purchase in the north of the country. Land belonging to the late Count Selim Jedid of Alexandria in Haifa and Tiberias was purchased by a syndicate led by Judge Bernard Rosenblatt and Mr. Joseph Levy.

50 years ago: On February 23, 1949, *The Palestine Post* reported that a plan for the rehabilitation of demobilized soldiers had been worked out by the Ministry of Defense. The scheme provided for compensation and special payments to families of those killed in action, as well as to the disabled servicemen and to all soldiers upon their release.

Alexander Zvielli

Hillary, forget New York

MARIE COCCO

To: Hillary Rodham Clinton
Re: New York Senate Race

You've got Washington and New York abuzz about your contemplative look at running for Senate in New York next year.

On paper, you look pretty good.

You have total name recognition and could raise the cash in a flash. The state Democratic infrastructure has promised you no primary, forsaking its love of fratricidal ritual for a better-than-average chance at keeping Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's seat in its hands.

The brand of Left-ish centrism you and your husband have settled on is just right for New York, except in a few Manhattan precincts where even Michael Dukakis was reviled as a damnable pragmatist.

As an added plus, New York may be the only state in the nation where your marriage won't be snickered about. We've seen odder arrangements (see Ed Koch-Bess Myerson, Rudy Giuliani-Donna Hanover Giuliani, Joey and Mary Jo Buttafuoco). It's fair to say nobody will ask you to prove your womanhood or the strength of your marriage by competing in a cookie bake-off.

So it's all systems go. Except for one small question.

What are you, crazy?

Here's the undeniable, on-the-ground, facts about running for office in New York, the tabloid fodder you're not being fed at the Hamptons receptions and Manhattan dinners, where the whispers you hear are that you will have complete financial and political support and therefore haven't a thing to worry about.

We don't treat celebrities any better than token clerks.

Ask your friend Geraldine Ferraro. She, too, had great name recognition and an emotional well of support among women who respected and admired her for her groundbreaking role as the first female vice presidential candidate. Only about a year ago, Ferraro heard the whispers you hear now, and she remembers them today: "You've gotta run, you've gotta run. You're the only one who can beat [Alfonse] D'Amato. We really need you," Ferraro recalled.

Don't even *think* of running there

Ferraro is the first to say your candidacy would be different — no money troubles and no primary. Still, her demise in last year's Democratic Senate primary is a lesson: Just being an icon doesn't cut it. Not even when the icon you want to run in *New York*?

Yes, the Moynihan seat was held by an outsider before this — by Robert F. Kennedy of Virginia and James Buckley of Connecticut, to be precise. But that was before Koch ruined his career by saying upstaters wore gingham and shopped at Sears; before half of Manhattan rose up in indignation at the idea of Kmart in its midst, and before it had to be explained to the national media that the term "putzhead" was not really an ethnic slur, but just a dumb thing for D'Amato to say in the middle of a campaign in which his silly antics were an issue.

In other words, New York politics have gotten more parochial, not less. One slip, just one time when you don't get the difference between Far Rockaway and East Rockaway, and you could end up like Koch.

WHICH brings up the next problem.

You think Washington is insular, parochial, distrustful of outsiders and never did accept you because it looked down its pointy nose at people from Arkansas? So now Koch. And Al Sharpton. And D'Amato. And Calvin Butts. And the rest of the cast and crew that goes into producing a typical day in New York politics. Have microphone, will rant.

You've had it with the Washington media culture that has been so unkind to you and your husband. So you're going to trade it for the New York media circus?

Maybe you think the media and the people who use it can't do anything more to you than it's already done. But even in Washington, you've been able to retreat to the safety of scripted events, or get out of town to play before friendlier crowds. And even when the media has bored in on you, it's been done with politeness, with respect for your role as first lady.

In New York, as the Senate candidate, there would be no escape. And let's just say politeness isn't a factor when we're chasing a candidate down into the subway.

It is said you want to stand up on your own, show your brains and your grit and have your day. But you've got nothing left to demonstrate. America already knows you're a class act. You don't need a New York run to prove it.

(Newsday)

هكذا من الأعلى





(Above) Toys 'R Us offers more than 200 disguises plus 1,000 accessories for do-it-yourself costumes; (right) From Hasbro Israel, 22 different Purim costumes, including Disney characters Goofy, Minnie and Mickey Mouse.

Here comes 'instant' Purim

Dressing up used to be a matter of old clothes and bottomless fantasy. Now a bottomless budget is a good idea, Michal Yudelman writes

Purim used to be a project planned long in advance. Children's costumes demanded an assorted collection of old clothes, piles of fabric and bric-a-brac from the *boidem*, fashioned into costumes by by mothers with a bottomless reservoir of imagination, improvisational skills and time.

In those bygone days, Purim costumes came from a limited classic repertoire – figures from the Book of Esther or cowboys, pirates, clowns, brides, kings and queens. A hemp blond wig, ankle socks and white apron over a long blue skirt could magically transform a seven-year-old kibbutznik into the proudest Alice in Wonderland.

No longer – today's sophisticated kids demand costumes that will turn them into television stars and Disney or computer game characters.

Like convenience foods and frozen TV dinners, many of these items come ready-made, and can be picked off a rack from an astounding array in the stores.

The downside, especially for families with several children, is the considerable expense.

But whether it's Queen Esther, Superman or Pocahontas, no child can miss dressing up and parading his or her Purim costume. On the contrary, preschoolers throughout the country will be expected to strut their stuff at their kindergarten and nursery-school parties during the next few days.

For adults, too, Purim is the time of year to play out their dress-up fantasies and parade the streets in an Adloyada event. On this holiday, it's even a mitzva to play the fool and get drunk.

The custom of wearing costumes on Purim is thought to be ancient. Many sources link it to the sudden turnabout in the Purim story, in which one day Haman is the king's top official, and the next he is disgraced and later hung; we disguise ourselves to remind us that not everything is always as it seems.

Another explanation is that we hide our faces just as God hid His "face" during the events described in the Book of Esther, in which God's name is never mentioned. The custom became particularly prevalent in Italy as early as 400 years ago. Even earlier than that, Rabbi Yehuda Mintz gave tacit approval for men to wear women's clothes on this day.

However, many Ashkenazi rabbis strongly disapproved of the custom, which could be seen as borrowed from the Christian carnivals at the start of Lent (the 40-day fast before Easter). Yet these in turn merely took over the pagan rites of spring practiced by most ancient cultures. In modern times, wearing fancy dress has become the most conspicuous public celebration of Purim.



McDonald's clown Ronald McDonald (Yoni Reif)



Universe Club's pirate and sunflower costumes (Sivan Farag)

TO meet the demand for costumes this year, wholesaler Hasbro Israel is marketing 22 different Purim costumes.

The ever-popular Disney characters abound – Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, Goofy, Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Snow White, 101 Dalmations and the Lion King.

There are also costumes of popular characters from toddler television series such as *Bigbugs* and *Mr. Potato Head*, *Toy Story* and *Action Man*.

All the costumes are NIS 150 except for the grander princesses – Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella – which cost NIS 190.

Toys 'R Us and Hypertoy, which merged recently, are offering Purim costumes for children of all ages, for NIS 50 cash, plus Visa points to cover the rest of the cost.

Their stores' massive displays have more than 200 disguises plus 1,000 accessories for do-it-yourself costumes – mustaches, noses, wigs, hats, teeth, and so on.

The ready-made costumes range from classic Queen Estheris, soldiers, gypsies and Little Red Riding Hoods right up to 1990s hits like Barbie, Princess Sisi, Loony Toons, Batman, Superman, Ninja Turtles, and Power Rangers.

Prices range from NIS 49 to NIS 199 for locally made costumes, and from NIS 130 to NIS 150 for imported ones.

The stores also offer partial costume kits that can be combined with articles from home – bits of last year's costumes for example. But like the costumes themselves, some of these kits are more elaborate and expensive than others.

There are kits for Batman at NIS 130, a beetle (NIS 110), a clown (NIS 60), Ninja (NIS 80), Bigbugs (NIS 150), Queen Esther (NIS 80), Superman (NIS 130), Princess Barbie (NIS 199), Cinderella (NIS 190), Ninja Turtle (NIS 150), and several others. They include the accessories that go with each character – a cape, a crown, a kerchief, a hat, etc.

Universe Club – which has large warehouse-type shopping outlets at the Check Point junction at Tel Hanan, Netanya's south industrial area and at the Power Center in Ness Ziona – has a variety of children's costumes for would-be pirates, clowns, Smurfs, Ninja Turtles, tigers, sunflowers, soldiers, Chinese characters and others, from NIS 59.90 to 119.90. Accessories include a witch's hat, a frightening ape mask, colorful wigs, a clown wig, huge glasses, golden wands and such, from NIS 5.95 to NIS 24.95.

Isracard holders can get reductions of up to 50% on costumes and Purim accessories at Sahek-Na and Happening stores until March 3 in exchange for accumulated stars.

DESPITE all the hi-tech and hyper-marketing, some resourceful mothers still prefer doing it – or at least part of it – themselves.

"Today it's all convenience costumes. People tend to avoid anything which takes a little effort and energy," said Helen Friedman, a Tel Aviv mother of two.

"I miss the times when mothers were involved in planning and putting together their children's costumes from scratch. It was an important joint creative process, an experience we don't have these days."

For parents who want to save money, especially if they have more than one child, Friedman approves of the mix-and-match approach.

"I suggest buying accessories that, with bits and pieces from home, make up a costume. You can buy a toy broom, a witch's hat, a nose and wig at toy shops or market stalls. Add an old black dress or long black skirt at home, and voila, your little girl's a witch.

"Some stars and a moon cut from gold paper can be stuck on the same black dress and she's a night princess."

When Friedman's younger daughter was in nursery school, she converted a designer evening gown into a princess costume.

"Sure, it takes some imagination, but it's much more creative and you feel part of your child's celebration."

Ziva Majar always made Purim costumes for her three children, now grown.

Once she found blue satin fabric at home and made wide harem pants and a turban from it. With a fearsome moustache, a puffy pirate shirt, a sword and some make up, her son could have stepped straight out of *Arabian Nights*.

"The easiest is a clown. You need a wide pair of men's trousers, suspenders, a cushion in front and in the back and clown make-up," Majar said. "But the best one ever was when Eyal, my son, was in sixth grade and I dressed him up in one of my tightest mini skirts, leopard body suit and high heels. With make up, he was the sexiest *freiha* (tart) you ever saw."

Today Majar's granddaughter Eden insists on being Minnie Mouse.

"I'm getting her a headband with Minnie ears and a polka-dot bow from a toy shop. She already has a black velvet dress. With a little white apron she'll make a perfect Minnie."

If your child insists on dressing up as Ronald McDonald, the clown who greets children at the McDonald's promotions, the burger chain suggests striped red-and-white tights, a long-sleeved red and white shirt, yellow track pants, and a jacket with a hood.

Finish off with a curly red clown's wig, red shoes (buy cheap shoes at the market and spray-paint them red), white gloves and clown make up – red mouth and nose, and black eyebrows. Add white pockets to the pants and jacket and fold the pants to ankle length.

It may be a long way from Queen Esther to a fast-food king – but that's Purim.



Hasbro's Mr. Potato Head (Yossi Tsebker)

David's cyber-golem

"Allo, Sam? David. My wife is making kube soup. You're coming?"

Sima Ashkenazi's kube soup is worth a cross-town trip. "I'm on my way," I said.

Between slurps, their daughter, Mor, moans.

"Daddy, I *need* Excel and Power-Print." Like, what 10-year-old these days doesn't have such a thing?

David looks at me dumbly. "What's she talking about?"

The Ashkenazis are caught in a generation gap. Mor finishes her soup and slips off to the computer. Like all Israeli kids, she's a whiz. Her sister Or, nearly nine, patiently waits her turn. Even two-year-old Ahva, who only recently learned how to use the toilet, can use the computer with Comfy, a keyboard for toddlers.

David shakes his head slowly, stupefied. In this mad rush to the future, he's been left behind. Like his parents struggling to come to grips with emerging modernity a generation ago, he is too timid to plunge in.

"Where do I start?" he asks. "What kind of basis do you need to understand all this?"

David is an electrician, supplementing his income by operating an ice-cream truck. He's a tactile sort, great with his hands, a supreme fix-it man who'll climb on your roof to repair a solar heater and then descend into the sewer to cure your plumbing problems.

But electronics? Incomprehensible.

Computers? "The simplest things I don't understand. Like *inter*. (He means "enter.") They're always doing *inter*, what's this mean? If I took a course I could learn, I suppose...."

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

I ask David what he understands about the Internet.

"It's some kind of communication thing. I heard two people got married through the Internet. I dunno, people uh, communicate, somehow, they, uh, connect between here and there, I think, for example, if I want to contact you I send you some kind of a message, and through some kind of number or code or something, this is how I understand it, that's how we connect. And if you want to write a letter, tik-tik-tik, then you print it. Am I right?"

DAVID is 38 years old. He's intelligent, but straightforward, earthy, unfettered by layers of sophistication. He knows what he knows, likes what he likes, but he's curious and respectful of the world outside his realm.

He may appear simple, but he's well-read, even enjoying the classics and philosophy.

"I look at this computer and I say, 'David, this is not for you.' It rubs against my nature, y'know, some people just aren't right for this kind of thing.

"I'm a working man, physical things I understand, I'm good at that. Give me a job and I blossom, you know what I mean?

"I see this as a privilege for the elite, not for someone like me. But now, my daughters are in the elite."

Neither David nor Sima speak much English – they have little use for it – but Or and Mor read *The Jerusalem Post*'s youth newspapers and learn the language with enthusiasm, because they see its value the moment they turn on the computer button. Their lingo is peppered with Bill Gates English: shift, home, MS-DOS, escape, enter, surfing.

David watches with fascination as first Mor, then Or, nimbly navigate through various programs.

"I like the mouse," he chuckles, "it's *davka* cute."

Sima is less mystified by this golem.

"I know a bit by now, how to turn it on, and off, to get into a program. I'm with the girls a lot, so I learn, I have to, because when they have a question I have to know."

They came into a bit of money a year ago and decided what they needed most was a computer.

"We couldn't just go out and spend 7,000 shekels," says Sima, removing the empty soup bowls and returning with mint tea. "I asked around. And I learned, it should have a Pentium-this, speakers-that, a screen, a keyboard, a mouse, so with this information I shopped around for a good price.

"I didn't even know how to talk to the salesmen. They could have taken such advantage of me."

David's brow furrows as he asks me, "What we have now, it's a year old, I'm told it's old-fashioned, that I should buy something better. "Can't be! Is it true?"

WE move to the girls' bedroom, where the furniture has been shuffled to squeeze in the computer system.

Little fingers skim deftly over the keyboard. David's hands are folded.

"I haven't lost touch with them, even though, when they're in their world, with the computer, I'm excluded. But they're still part of my world."

The girls were always able to call upon Daddy to fix things, but now, with this contraption so central to their lives, they find he is helpless. But they don't resent their father's ignorance.

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The girls were always able to call upon Daddy to fix things, but now, with this contraption so central to their lives, they find he is helpless. But they don't resent their father's ignorance.

"I wouldn't want my daddy to be playing computer games all day, what kind of man is that?" Mor says, and grins. "Anyway, it's better for us. We don't have to share it with him."

David laughs.

"You see, it's better I don't know."

Or senses she should defend her father further. "But he did sit at the computer once or twice. He played Solitaire. We taught him, and he was good, he did it."

At one point, the girls encounter a crisis: The printer isn't working.

David's only hope is that it's an electrical problem, and he crawls in behind the setup. Sure enough, it takes him a moment, and the printer is humming.

"Loose plug," he mumbles modestly, but I'm sure he's just a bit pleased for having answered the call.

Ahva is sitting on Daddy's lap, and croons, "Comfy" – her special keyboard. Or reluctantly hops off the chair, and David sets the littlest Ashkenazi on a pillow, and crouches alongside.

Ahva pecks away at the oversized keys while sucking on her pacifier. A cartoony turtle appears, she says, "Scary!" and taps a key to make it go away.

David's face, illuminated by the computer screen, is awash with pride: "Well done!"

David goes back to the kitchen and lights up a cigarette.

"What I understand is this: They need a computer to get ahead. That's the way it is today.

"When I was a boy, we didn't have a TV. We couldn't afford it. So I used to go to my friend to watch. And my father would come home and ask, 'Where's David?' And my mother would say, 'He's over at Moishe's, watching TV.'

"One day he grew angry and said, 'If a TV is something my boy should have, I'll turn over the world, he'll have a TV!' The next day he went to work, he kicked up a fuss, he said, 'You have to give me a loan, I have to buy my boy a TV! *Today*!'

"That very day he came home carrying a television on his back."

Mishloah manot made easier



Order food baskets for Purim, Pessah and Rosh Hashana from Dash Cham, and they'll be delivered to the addressee's door, anywhere in Israel. Dash Cham's Rosenbaum in Dash Cham's warehouse.

The company delivers packages all year round and is busiest on Purim, Pessah and Rosh Hashana. Business is also picking up during the Christmas season, as more Israeli companies start sending Christmas presents to colleagues abroad.

Dash Cham can be reached at 02-672-2355 or 02-672-6183. The company also has an Internet site at www.dashcham.com.

FOR children, Elite is offering mishloah manot of various shapes and sizes, filled with candy, chocolate figures and a rattle.

These include a candy-filled clown lamp shade for NIS 25.95, a hamantaschen-shaped box in two sizes (NIS 21.95 and NIS 6.50), a clown's hat filled with candy for NIS 9.95 and a treasure chest for NIS 12.90. There are also candy-filled plastic clown glasses with a straw for NIS 25.95.

The Jerusalem Post Book Department also offers a door-to-door delivery of Purim and Pessah gift baskets in Israel. The baskets, ranging from NIS 149 to NIS 399, include an assortment of sweets, yid-foos kinds of chocolates, halva, wine, nuts, olive oil and candies, depending on the size and price of the package. On Purim, a mask is included with every package. Orders can be made by calling 02-5378377 or e-mail: orders@jpost.co.il. – *M.Y.*

Candy-filled, plastic clown glasses with a straw from Elite



Mom's big mistake

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Dear Ruthie,
My mother, who is a wealthy woman, has taken up with a man over 20 years her junior. (In fact, he is just about my older brother's age.) We believe she met him under dubious circumstances because of the way she avoids sharing the details of their meeting with us.

Since she and our father divorced when we were young, she has had quite a few boyfriends, none of whom was a suitable match. But this one – whom she seems to be considering marrying – is the absolute worst.

We have tried to explain our reservations about this union, but she won't listen.

I went so far as to phone my father – who lives in Israel – to ask his advice; but he says our mother has never been someone to listen to reason where men or money were concerned.

Is there anything we can do? Should we discuss this with a lawyer? Is there any way to persuade our mother to seek therapy before she does anything drastic?

Mother of a Problem
Somewhere in the US

Dear Mother of a Problem,

If your mother were to discuss her emotional reservations about her attachment to this man with you, it would be within your rights as a "confidante" to suggest that she seek counseling. However, since it is you and your brother who are experiencing the distress, it ought to be the two of you considering therapy.

Whether your mother's taste in men is unhealthy – and whether or not her first encounter with this particular one was "dubious" – is really not your problem.

Though your concern may be as natural as it is admirable, it is as pointless as it is counterproductive.

Your mother has been around a lot longer than you, and her lifestyle and emotional condition are her responsibility. Any unsolicited interference on your part is likely to yield a result opposite to the one you and your brother intend. (Contacting your father, for example, as though he were his ex-wife's guardian and protector, was taking this unsolicited interference a little far. If your mother were to find out about it, she'd probably be pretty angry.)

Furthermore, the attitude you and your brother are adopting is one that presupposes wealth is the only attractive feature your mother has to offer a man 20 years her junior. Has it occurred to either of you that she may have other qualities compelling or valuable to the opposite sex, of any age? Or that it may be the young man who is headed for heartbreak or other trouble?

The assumption that money is behind the whole relationship is sufficient cause for you to examine your own relationship to your mother's wealth.

Ask yourselves, for example, whether you are worried about losing some of your inheritance money to a "newcomer." Or whether the only redeeming quality you and your brother see in your mother is her wallet.

If neither of these rings true, then you can relax, and allow your parent to make her own mistakes, and learn her own lessons.

Who knows? She might not even be making a mistake – in which case there is no problem.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in* In Jerusalem *and in* City Lights *on Fridays.)

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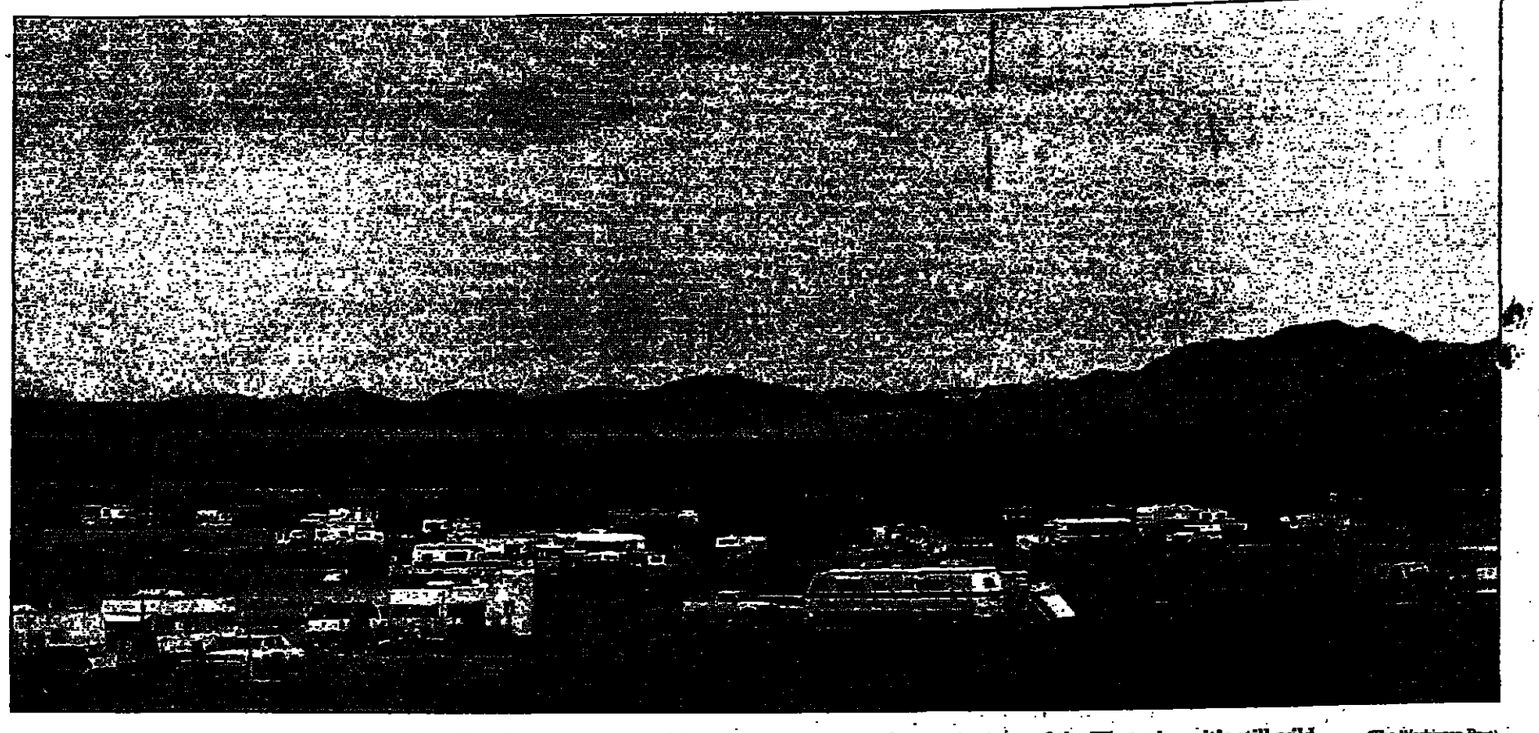
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No fees or rules, no running water or electricity: Slab City desert camp is for the true believers who want a taste of the West where it's still wild. (The Washington Post)

Retired, revved up and on the road

They're rebels, lonely hearts, misfits and wanderers – wrinkled Easy Riders over 60 and out to defy the image of aging in America.
Rene Sanchez reports.



Geriatric gypsies: Ben Preston and Irma Ruth greet each other as they join fellow members of Loners on Wheels for morning coffee. (The Washington Post)

The skies are bright, the beer is cold, and the doors of sand-swept motor homes and trailers strewn all over this baked and barren desert outpost that is Slab City, Calif., are creaking open.

Here come the Loners on Wheels, all gray-haired, all single, shuffling over to another afternoon happy hour in the middle of nowhere.

By the dozens, club members gather near clumps of tumbleweed as drinks and tales start to flow.

They are one brigade in a growing army of retirees who spend their time roaming highways across the West, and this is their latest stop. An American flag the gang raised high over its makeshift camp when it pulled up snaps and twists in the stiff desert wind.

"I've been doing this full-time since '91," Irma Ruth boasts as she and two friends, all in their sixties, lean against the back of a muddy rig. "There's such freedom living this way."

"You realize you don't need all your stuff," chimes in Josi Roth. "And there's so much to discover."

"You think we just want to sit around rocking a hole in the floor?" Elwood Wilson asks. He takes a long swig from a dented beer can. "Hell, no."

They are rebels and lonely hearts, misfits and wanderers, Beats on Medicare, wrinkled Easy Riders.

And every last one of them is out to defy what getting old in America often means.

Retirement homes, days and nights in the haze of television, playing host to endless Sundays at Grandma's – who needs it? All they long for is the open road. And especially the majestic highways that wind through the West.

THERE is no firm count on how many seniors are on the road year-round, passing through campsites like the one here, but academics studying the culture suggest there are well over a million. And their ranks are swelling, fast.

Memberships in national clubs for elderly roadsters – the Loners on Wheels, the Wandering Individuals Network, Birds of a Feather – are climbing. Another group, the Escapees, has twice as many members, 30,000, as it did a decade ago. There are now health insurance plans, Web sites and campgrounds for seniors living behind the wheel.

The rise of early retirement, medical advances helping the elderly live healthier longer and new rigs as comfortable as Florida condos are making the lifestyle an easier choice.

"It really is becoming a way of life for more of them," said Diane Harlan, who edits the Escapees' national magazine. "They're retiring with more vitality and need something in place of work. And this is so different."

Many are selling their homes, storing their belongings, cashing their nest eggs and kissing their old lives goodbye.

In Land Yachts and Winnebagos, in ramshackle buses and old trailers pulled by even older pickups, they ramble across vast western deserts in the winter and roam lush forests in the Pacific Northwest in the summer. Then they turn the wheels of their RVs and do it all over again.

They call it "hitch itch." Some have been on the road so long they can hardly fathom living any other way.

Peggy Webb, a retired nurse, has been driving ever since she and her husband, who is retired from the military, sold their house five years ago.

"I never thought I had the nerve to do this," Webb said one morning in the desert here as she practiced painting on canvas. "But our kids had grown up and we were in an empty house saying, 'Now what?' So we took off.

"And now I don't think I ever want to go back."

Some rattle off their favored destinations in a kind of spiritual chant: Aguanga, Yuma, Quartzsite, Mammoth Lakes. In those spots and others, there are RV camps that require reservations and limit stays. There are camps that charge fees and post rules.

And for the true believers and free spirits, the geriatric gypsies who want a taste of the West where it's still wild, there is Slab City.

'Our kids had grown up, and we were in an empty house... so we took off. And now I don't think I ever want to go back.'
– retired nurse Peggy Webb

THERE are no fees or rules at Slab City, no running water or electricity – just hundreds of humble trailers and campers scattered in every direction. The place empties in the summer because temperatures make it a furnace. This time of year, it is packed with about 5,000 people.

Most are on their own and in their sixties and seventies. They stop in for a few weeks or months, reunite with pilgrims they have met from their travels, then move on. Some carve out turf at Slab City by slashing old tires in half and lining them in the dirt around their rigs.

It does not draw the country club set. Most roadsters here are retired factory workers, war vets or tradesmen, usually living on fixed incomes. They have few expenses: gas, food, medicine and more gas. Many are restless widows and widowers searching for full lives without their spouses.

They all preach the glory of the road, yet some voices also betray sadness and loss.

"I guess I needed something to take the place of my married life when my wife passed," said Irv Himelberger, 85, a former carpenter from Washington state who travels with a mutt he named Freddy.

"I didn't want to sit around looking at the walls or have to start depending on my kids, either."

Life on the road and in the camps can be hard. But to many, roughing it is half the thrill.

Some Slabbers shower in a ditch that has a warm desert spring. Some wash clothes in tubs of soapy water and trim each other's hair. There are other sacrifices: Trips to see doctors can take hours. Keeping in touch with relatives and children is not easy, and not always pleasant.

Doris Vande, a widow, took to the road in her camper 11 years ago. She said she tried staying put after she retired from assembly-line work at an automotive plant in Michigan, but she grew bored.

She is now a devout member of the Loners on Wheels, but she also sounds estranged from her adult children.

"They don't approve of my lifestyle," said Vande, 71, who was wearing a sweat suit and a beret. "At times they just want me to have a humdrum life. But their mother isn't like that. I don't want to give up yet."

Still, the road and the camps eventually wear some of them out. Some return home after a few years or begin living with their children. Others join traditional retirement communities.

"It is tempting to go back sometimes," said Irma Ruth, whose teenage grandchildren keep up with her on the Internet home page they made her create on her computer.

"This life," added Josi Roth, "is definitely not for everyone." Those who stick to it get by with grit, ingenuity and more than a few six-packs.

They all preach the glory of the road, yet some voices also betray sadness and loss... Keeping in touch with children is not easy, and not always pleasant

MANY have come to Slab City so often over the years that they have created a community. They share tanks of water and cut deals in nearby towns to have trash hauled out. They know so many trades, they can fix anything that breaks. A retired barber has strung red and blue tape on his trailer and gives haircuts.

For power, some Slabbers use generators. Others rely on solar panels they buy from Mike Gohl, a mainstay here since the mid-1980s. Back then, he was a middle-aged social worker in Oregon. But he grew disenchanted with budget cuts – "Reaganomics, man" – and took off in a transit bus that the city of Eugene, Ore., didn't want.

It still runs, barely. Gohl has put about 500,000 miles on it, traveling, as he puts it, "everywhere beautiful."

By day, Slab City bustles with card games, horseshoe tournaments, even dances and talent shows – all outside in the desert. A few clubs have converted trailers into libraries filled with tattered paperbacks. The Loners on Wheels group uses a trailer as a moviehouse and shows tapes on a VCR.

In the evenings, many seniors nestle in folding chairs and bask in panoramic desert sunsets.

Around 6 o'clock most nights, a hush settles over Slab City. Regulars switch on their CB radios and tune in to Linda Barnett, a retired X-ray technician who has been coming here for a decade.

Inside a camper covered in camouflage netting, she broadcasts a scratchy half-hour report on camp doings and holds trivia contests.

So much to do, so little time.

IRV Himelberger is revved up the next morning. He bolts from his camper early and makes tracks over to the mess tent of the Slab City Singles, another club here. Himelberger, a short, wiry man with a scraggly gray beard, is the president.

As he walks by, a few members sip coffee above a sign that says, "Ashes To Ashes, Dust To Dust, Life Is Too Short, So Party We Must."

Himelberger is in a rush because he has to get his driver's license renewed – in Oregon. The trip would be hundreds of miles. He mingles briefly and says a few goodbyes.

"Keep an eye on things," he tells Phil Koursh, whose camper is parked next to his.

Himelberger heads for his truck. The engine wheezes and Freddy barks. "I'll be right back," he calls out with a wave. And then the old rig disappears in a cloud of dust.

(The Washington Post)

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

'High' marks for kid rapper

In Tune



By David Brinn

Rap with a positive message? A+, aka 16-year-old wunderkind Andre Levins, gives rap a good name on his second disc, *Hempstead High*.

Politically correct, with messages of family togetherness, safe sex and the importance of staying in school, A+ forgoes the bluster and gangsta stance for some upbeat, melodic-based R&B. The hit single "Enjoy Yourself," which samples Beethoven's Fifth Symphony courtesy of Walter Murphy, is simply a fun and playful listen that lives up to its title.

Guest stars including Chico DeBarge and Erykah Badu, as well as samples from some prime Gamble-Huff era soul, lend an air of celebration to the disc. But, it's still rap, and even an overachiever like A+ doesn't tamper much with the tedious repetition and general lack of creativity that permeates rap music.

On the other hand, you could say the repetition is mesmerizing and the creativity is found within the rhymes and fusion of hip hop and R&B melodies. A+ may not make one forget about rock 'n' roll, but *Hempstead High* is one rap disc that music fans can listen to without cringing.

HEMPSTEAD HIGH
A+
(NMC)

FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON
Soundtrack
(NMC)

SECRET MOMENT
Various Artists
(NMC)

THE much acclaimed HBO, Tom Hanks-inspired miniseries *From the Earth To the Moon* boasts an equally stratospheric soundtrack, featuring songs and artists from the 1950s, '60s and '70s which don't often make compilations.

When was the last time you heard The Archies' "Sugar Sugar," as perfect a bubblegum pop song that was ever written? Or on the other end of the hip-'60s spectrum, Donovan's epic "Season of the Witch"?

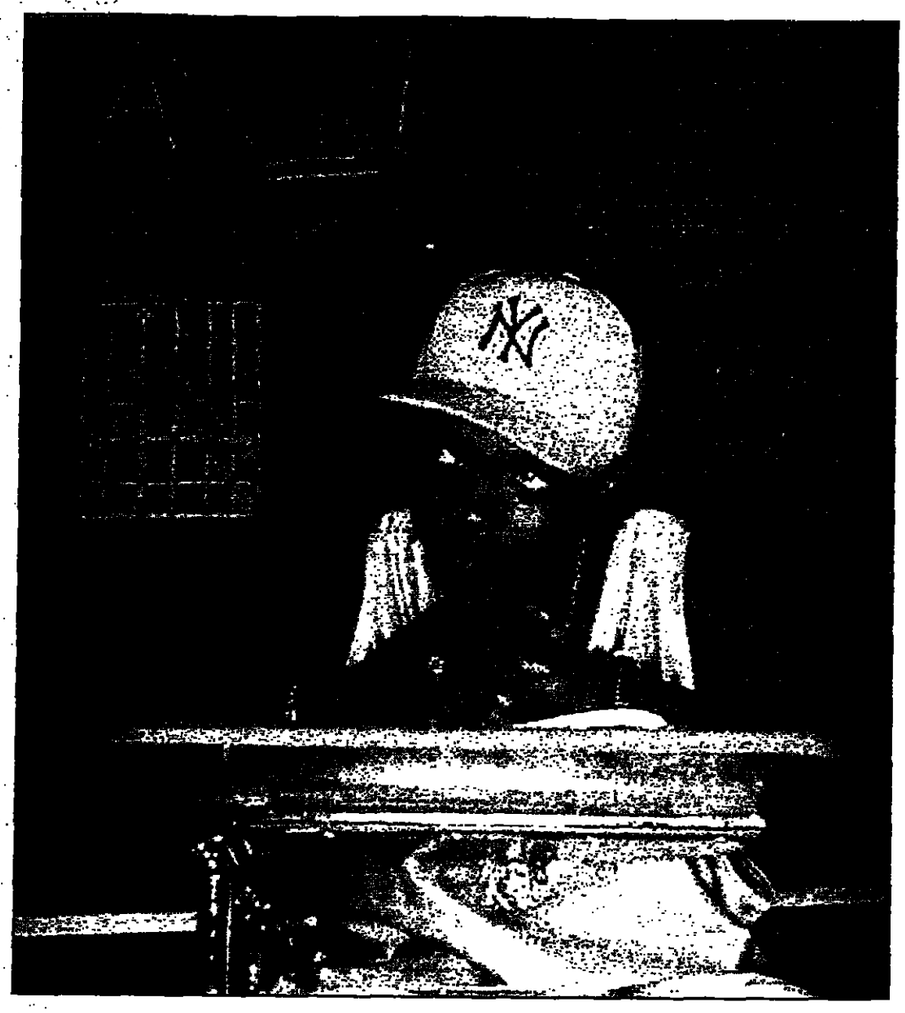
Toss in The Byrds' "Eight Miles High," The Who's "Magic Bus" and The Lovin' Spoonful's "Did You Ever Have To Make Up Your Mind," and you get a Top-40 radio playlist at its most endearing.

For a capper, try a whirling studio rendition of "Whipping Post" from The Allman Brothers Band, proof positive, in the event that time has faded memory, that they were one of the most innovative rock bands of its era.

A few '50s hits tacked on the end by The Shirelles and Bobby Darin will help listeners with a smooth reentry to our atmosphere following the spacey trip Duane Allman pilots.

SUBTITLED "a dream within a dream," *Secret Moments*, a collection of 17 world-music cuts, does indeed send the listener to lofty heights. Song titles like "Moonswimming," "Whales of Atlantis" and "A Taste of Africa" say it all.

Chimes, choral chants, acoustic sea breezes and soothing whistles create a cocoon of sound for over 70 minutes. With artists like Secret Garden, Dead Can Dance and Oliver Shanti leading the way, *Secret Moments* provides those who missed the HBO miniseries an alternative way to reach the moon.



A+, rapper Andre Levins's chosen name, reflects his grades on his disc, 'Hempstead High.'

Demanding drama challenges actors

Theater Review

By Naomi Doudai

This is one of these retrospective post-World War II dramas that test the moral integrity and humanity of a dedicated actor threatened by the Nazis. Daniak, a Czech playwright, depicts Vladick Bendel, an European stage star of the '30s. Bendel is portrayed as a split personality divided between duty to his fellow men, (wife, friends, colleagues – he betrays them all), and the worship of his art.

The play, an intricate, originally structured work, is an in-depth study of that hybrid human theater creature, the actor-actress, who spends an exacting career highly demanding of its director and actors alike. While Mitko Buzkov directs with flair, his cast of highly promising performers are on the whole not yet sufficiently sophisticated or mature to carry such demanding roles.

Dudu Niv as Bendel, though offering glints of old-time thespian glamor and charm, has heavy work making credible the wide emotional range, mannered monologues, moral fluctuations and sheer melodrama of his anti-hero.

At least five of the lesser roles are more rewarding, however. Gilead Talmor as a "cultured" SS officer, Nir Menky as wily wartime profiteer and Udi Ben David as Tunik, the faithful friend, manage serious and sincere studies.

Also noteworthy are Netta Haber's Melina, the capricious, impudent front-line hoofer, and Yossi Tzaberi's dynamic dresser. Executed with polished and professional panache, both add an element of relief and momentary entertainment to this otherwise dark drama.

The War Starts after Intermission
('Hamilhama Tihyetz Ahara Hahafsaka')
By A. Daniak.
Hebrew: Dudu Niv and Mitko Buzkov.
Sifriya Theater, Ramat Gan.
February 14

Promises to keep

DANCE REVIEW

Mussa is a young dance company affiliated with the Tel Aviv municipal dance center. Three recognized fringe choreographers – Ido Tadmor, Niv Sheinfeld and Lara Barsacq – created works for the company.

A lot of effort was invested in providing professional conditions for the dancers in terms of stage facilities, costume and light design. The dancers, some on a threshold of professional career, seem dedicated, yet most of the evening didn't amount to more than a decent studio production.

Barsacq's *Propaganda* in particular, and to less extent *Think Pink* by Sheinfeld, suffered from an excessive use of banal contemporary vocabulary and an overload of visual elements that were neither seriously explored nor carefully edited.

Sheinfeld's work has enough budding ideas for a full evening production if he'd put in the necessary substantive effort. His clever use of musical and cinema associations, his dash of humor alongside nostalgic insinuations are promising, but not yet fulfilled.

Structurally, *Shpachtel* by Ido Tadmor is the strongest of the lot. Tadmor is well focused and the opening scene – five dancers dressed in gold lamé, each under a spot of light and rolling open a colorful carpet to claim their territory – is particularly impressive.

The duet towards the end also worked well, and it appears overall that Tadmor managed to get the most out of the group.

'Propaganda'
Mussa Dance Company
Suzanne Dellal
February 18

Make your weekend a safe one... DRIVE CAREFULLY!



Meryl Streep, star of 'One True Thing', received a Golden Camera for her work in film. (AP)

'Thin Red Line' wins at Berlin

By DEBORAH COLE

US director Terrence Malick's first feature in 20 years, the World War Two epic, *The Thin Red Line*, which tells the story of several American soldiers' experiences in the Pacific, on Sunday won the Berlin Film Festival's prestigious Golden Bear prize.

Silver Bear prizes for best actress went to German stars Maria Schrader and Juliane Koehler for their appearances in the wartime lesbian love story, *Aimee and Jaguar*, which opened the festival 12 days ago.

Michael Gwisdek won the Silver Bear for best actor for his performance in Germany's *Night Shapes*, as a shady businessman left to care for a child he meets on the streets of Berlin. Irish filmmaker Stephen Frears won the Silver Bear for directing the modern western *The Hi-Lo Country*, produced in the US.

Hollywood legend Shirley MacLaine attended the festival earlier in the week and accepted an honorary Golden Bear for her lifetime achievement. Fellow American actress Meryl Streep also accepted a special prize at the festival.

The Thin Red Line, a title which describes the border between sanity and madness, traces the bloody turning point of the American Pacific campaign against Japan at the island of Guadalcanal.

Critics have praised Malick's picture for its lingering shots of natural beauty blended with soldiers' poetic reflections on death and love. It is the director's first film since his 1978 feature *Days of Heaven*.

VINCENT de la Tour, head of the German unit of Twentieth Century Fox which produced the film, called the prize "a great honor".

"Winning a Golden Bear means you have a big boost in publicity and attention for an opening," de la Tour told Reuters. "Of course, like the Oscars or Cannes awards, it does not guarantee success but it always helps at first." De la Tour said the film opened last week in Sweden, Italy and Spain and would appear across the rest of western Europe this week.

The Thin Red Line, which features an ensemble cast ranging from Hollywood stars Nick Nolte and Sean Penn to previous unknowns Jim Caviezel and Will Wallace, has been nominated for Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director.

The reclusive Malick made one of his rare public appearances at the Berlinale, as the event is called, to present his film.

Nolte and Penn were also in Berlin to promote the film.

The awarding of the Berlin prizes caps a festival which brings Hollywood's glamor and the stars of international independent cinema together in the German capital.

The 49th annual event, which ranks just below Cannes and alongside Venice in prestige, informally spotlighted World War Two and the Holocaust with a range of international documentaries and features.

A total of 25 films competed for the Golden Bear prize during a festival that featured some 300 films from more than 40 countries. (Reuters)

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	ANDREA BOCELLI	ROMAN 29
#2	4	KNESIAT HASEHEL	KNESIAT HASEHEL
#3	2	EMMA SHAPPLIN	CARMINE MEO
#4	3	V/A	BEST OF '98
#5	5	BERRY SHAHAROF	NEGIOT
#6	7	V/A	KOLOT MIN HASHAMAIM 2
#7	13	ERA	ERA
#8	6	CHER	BELIEVE
#9	8	GEORGE MICHAEL	LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
#10	9	U2	BEST OF '80-'90
#11	RE	AIR	MOON SAFARI
#12	10	MADONNA	RAY OF LIGHT
#13	14	EYAL GOLAN	CHAYAL SHEL AHAVA
#14	20	V/A	MUSIKA MIN HASRATIM
#15	12	V/A	MISTER DJ 45

Tower Records' top-sellers for last week from countrywide sales.

Mahler inspires

Concert Roundup



By Ury Eppstein

The curiosity value of the IPO's Subscription Concert No. 4 was the revelation of Lorin Maazel as composer, violinist and orchestrator, as well as a conductor.

In this quadruple capacity, Maazel the composer/performer is the main competitor of Maazel the conductor. The composer of *Music for Violin and Orchestra*, in its first IPO performance, cannot quite compare with his reputation as an inspired conductor. Professionally written as the work is, it is hardly an inspired one. Contrasts are manipulated on many different levels: continually changing techniques, moods, instrumental colors, tempi and rhythms. It skillfully sustains interest and tension throughout, and the concluding note of tranquillity, after the preceding tumultuous events, is received with a sense of relief.

Kreisler's *Gypsy Caprice*, orchestrated by Maazel and also in a first IPO performance, provided a sort of comic relief. The work itself was not much more than a typical Kreisler encore piece, bordering on kitsch, and unnecessarily time-consuming in this already too-long program.

As a violinist, Maazel displayed remarkable virtuosity and brilliance in these two works and in Bartok's *Portrait* No. 1. The performance was impressive, though not precisely exciting.

Wolfgang Gieron conducted the orchestra authoritatively and accurately while Maazel concentrated on his violin.

Maazel the conductor, however, excelled in an inspired rendition of Mahler's Symphony No. 4. Tempi that sounded just right, vibrantly accelerating and retarding unostentatiously, according to a passage's inherent significance, bordered on wizardry. Never taking anything for granted, the work's most minute shadings, nuances and utterances were highlighted clearly as well as subtly.

Laura Aikin's bright and caressing soprano captured the child-like innocence of the "Heavenly Life," although her voice sounded somewhat small for the ICC hall's dimensions.

Elisabeth Roloff's recital revealed a wide sweep of baroque to contemporary. Scheidt's *Cantio Sacra* ("Why do you sorrow, my heart?") – all its 12 verses – was a veritable tour de force. Each one of the verses was rendered with different, fascinating and contrasting tone colors, in an immensely imaginative registration.

Jehan Alain's *Dances for Agni Yavishta* were a belated offspring of the French predilection for musical exoticism and Orientalism that leads from Saint-Saens to Debussy and Ravel. This already well-established trend finds here its modernist, more personalized expression.

Dance, perhaps one of the last things that one would expect from this dignified instrument, was also the theme of the contemporary Czech Petr Eben's *Jephtha's Daughter*. Eben uses it to highlight the moving contrast between the heroine's joy of victory and the mourning over her tragic fate.

In Bach's concluding Prelude and Fugue in E minor Roloff constructed a highly impressive edifice of musical architecture.

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra
Works by Mahler, Bartok, Kreisler and Maazel
Lorin Maazel – conductor and violinist
Jerusalem International Convention Center
February 17

Organ Recital
Scheidt, Alain, Eben, Bach
Elisabeth Roloff
Jerusalem, Redeemer Church
February 20

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA
Strauss: 'Die Fledermaus'
Soloists of the Vienna Staatsoper and Volksoper
Cantus-Hassadna Choir
Jerusalem International Convention Center
February 18

Johann Strauss's Bat ("Die Fledermaus") fluttered rather heavily in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 4, conducted by Austria's Peter Guth. The orchestra sounded depressingly pedantic, without sparkle and waltz-like sweep, until Act 2 when Guth took up the violin instead of the baton for a solo that melted his initial cautiousness.

It was in some of the minor roles that the artists came closest to a convincing impersonation of their roles. Herwig Pecoraro, as Alfred, displayed a pleasant, well-cultivated lyric tenor and, above all, expressed himself with the characteristic Viennese light touch. This can be said also of baritones Martin Winkler as Frank, and Heinz Holecek as Frosch, although these were mainly speaking roles. Their being genuine Viennese themselves may have contributed to their performances' naturalness and ease.

Most of the others made a too-obvious effort to work hard on their attempts to simulate Viennese lightness and nonchalance. The Czech Marcela Cerno's dramatic soprano and brilliant coloraturas, as Adele, were clumsy and entirely off the mark of this soubrette-type role's freshness and lighthearted charm. Polish soprano Izabela Labuda's impressively high notes were too assertive and penetrating for Rosalinde's subtly scheming character.

Semi-staged as the production was, it lacked a director who might have instructed the singers how to use the half-stage at their disposal for more than conventional gesticulations.

Mario Kotliar dies

By HELEN KAYE

Director, theatrical innovator and educator Mario Kotliar, 50, died in Jerusalem on Sunday after a long illness. Founder of the School of Visual Theater (1986 with Hadass Ophrat), the Habama Theater (1989), and the interdisciplinary arts magazine *Code* (1997), he was working on the third and latest issue of the magazine until shortly before he died.

At the Train puppet theater which he founded in 1981, Kotliar's longtime associate Dahlia Ma'ayan could hardly speak for grief.

"He was a whole world," she said. "He had such grace for people and for his art. He shared the flame of his creativity with everybody and now that flame is quenched. We're all a part of him, and everything he did came from a place of deep love within him. He never imposed his ideas, never allowed his ego to get in the way. Only someone who really knows who he is and where he's going can behave like that."

Born in Buenos Aires, Kotliar immigrated in 1970 and settled in Jerusalem after a brief stay in a kibbutz.

"We all had theater groups," he recalled in a 1997 *Jerusalem Post* interview, "and none of us wanted to do conventional theater."

That desire to push the envelope, to pierce veils, stayed with Kotliar all his life. His own directorial career started with *Escurial* in 1973 and culminated with the Golden Mermaid Award at Chervia, Italy, in 1996, awarded for his contribution to visual theater.

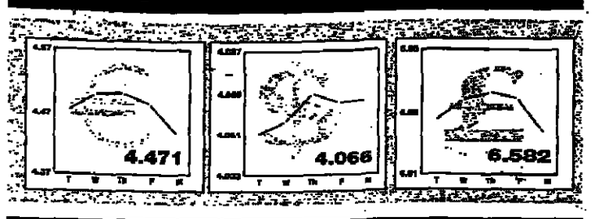
A gentle, modest, good-tempered man, Kotliar always spoke in the first person plural, not the royal "we" but the unaffected inclusion of all those involved in the various projects and institutions that his imagination set in motion.

In 1997, the Jerusalem Municipality gave Kotliar a Life Achievement Award for his interdisciplinary contributions to the arts. Interdisciplinarity was the bedrock of Kotliar's theatrical vision and for the last three years of his life, after he had been diagnosed with the debilitating disease that slowly killed him, Kotliar devoted all his energy to advancing the Interdisciplinary Theater Association of Jerusalem which shelters all the institutions he created.

Kotliar is survived by his wife, Atara, and their two children. He was buried yesterday at Givat Shaul and his passing has left a hole in the fabric of Israeli theater culture.

The EVENT of the year!
THE JERUSALEM POST FUNDS PESSAH COUNTRY FAIR

Today's shekel



In brief

Israel included in 5th European R&D program

The European Council decided yesterday to include Israel in the 5th European Framework Program for Research and Development. The approval was delayed in the past as Arab countries demanded the European Union force Israel to make progress in the peace process.

The Framework Program offers R&D funding to the tune of $12.8 billion for the next four years. Germany, which currently holds the EU presidency, advocated Israel's inclusion in the program.

The program is funded by the participating states with the pie being divided according to the appropriateness of R&D projects, rather than equally between nations. Israel, which is expected to contribute $45 million to the fund's coffers, is the only non-EU nation slated to join the program, having entered the 4th Framework in 1996. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Tadmor steps down

Dov Tadmor, who served for the last 14 years as CEO of Discount Investment Corp. announced yesterday he plans to retire at the end of March. Tadmor will be replaced by his deputy, Yoram Turbowicz, who served in the past as the head of the Anti Trust Authority.

The announcement did not come as a surprise, as Turbowicz was expected to replace Tadmor since he started working for the company a year ago. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Canada, Palestinians to sign trade deal

Canadian International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi will sign a trade agreement with the Palestinian Authority next Saturday, *The National Post* reported in Canada.

The deal "states the intention of the parties to conduct their commercial relations on the basis of free trade and indicates a political commitment of Canada and the PA to enhance relations," the newspaper reported, citing a briefing document. Marchi will also fly to the Gaza Strip, making him the first Canadian cabinet minister and one of the first foreign dignitaries to land at the Palestinian airport. *Bloomberg*

Levi Strauss to close half of N. American plants

Levi Strauss & Co., the largest US clothing maker, will shut half its 22 company-owned plants in North America and fire 5,900 workers – 30 percent of its workforce – and shift the work to lower-cost plants abroad.

The company, which makes its namesake jeans and Dockers slacks, said the closings include four plants in Texas, two in Tennessee and one each in Georgia, Arkansas, Virginia, North Carolina and Canada.

The work will be spread to contractors worldwide, San Francisco-based Levi said. Levi, which began making its 501 brand button-fly jeans for gold miners in 1887, has lost market share to blue jeans made by designers such as Tommy Hilfiger Corp. and private brands such as J.C. Penney Co.'s Original Arizona Jean Co. Revenue fell 13 percent last fiscal year to $6 billion. "These steps are crucial if we are to remain competitive," said John Ermatinger, president of Levi Strauss, the Americas. *Bloomberg*

Swiss Life to buy Gottardo stake for $1.65b.

Swiss Life, Switzerland's No. 1 life insurer, agreed to buy Banca del Gottardo, a Swiss asset manager, for SFr 2.4 billion ($1.65 billion) in cash and stock, bidding to catch up with rival insurers in money management.

In a first step, Swiss Life will pay SFr 1.366b. to Sumitomo Bank Ltd. for its 53.5 percent stake in Banca del Gottardo. Minority shareholders will be offered SFr 1,404 in cash or stock per Gottardo share, a 4.6% premium over Friday's price. In gaining control of Lugano-based Gottardo, Swiss Life joins other European insurers in expanding in money management, which offers stable earnings streams. For Sumitomo, Japan's No. 2 bank, the sale is a further step towards exiting Switzerland amid mounting losses at home. *Bloomberg*

Bank of Israel cuts rates by 0.5%

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel announced yesterday the lowering of the central bank's key lending rate by 0.5 percent to 13%.

The decrease was in line with analysts' expectations of a rate cut of 0.3% to 0.5%. The long-awaited move represents the first rate decrease since before the shekel crisis in October, in which its sharp depreciation compelled the central bank to hike interest rates by four percentage points within two weeks.

The last monetary policy expansion was in August, when interest rates were slashed from 11% to 9.5%, only a few weeks before Russia's financial crisis resulted in sharp rate hikes, which by November had settled at 13.5%.

Yesterday's decision to lower the rates follows January's surprising negative 0.5% consumer price index, which indicated inflation this year is expected to meet the 4% annual target increase set by the government. Economists noted that as the economic slowdown continues, the central bank had to lower the rates, as no inflationary pressures are evident.

Frenkel said various achievements against inflation made it possible for the bank to reduce interest rates. He added that only three months ago inflation expectations were extremely high, and inflation at the time had seemed to be getting out of control.

Despite the volatility of global financial markets, the monetary policy has succeeded in curbing inflation, allowing the government to achieve its inflation target, Frenkel said.

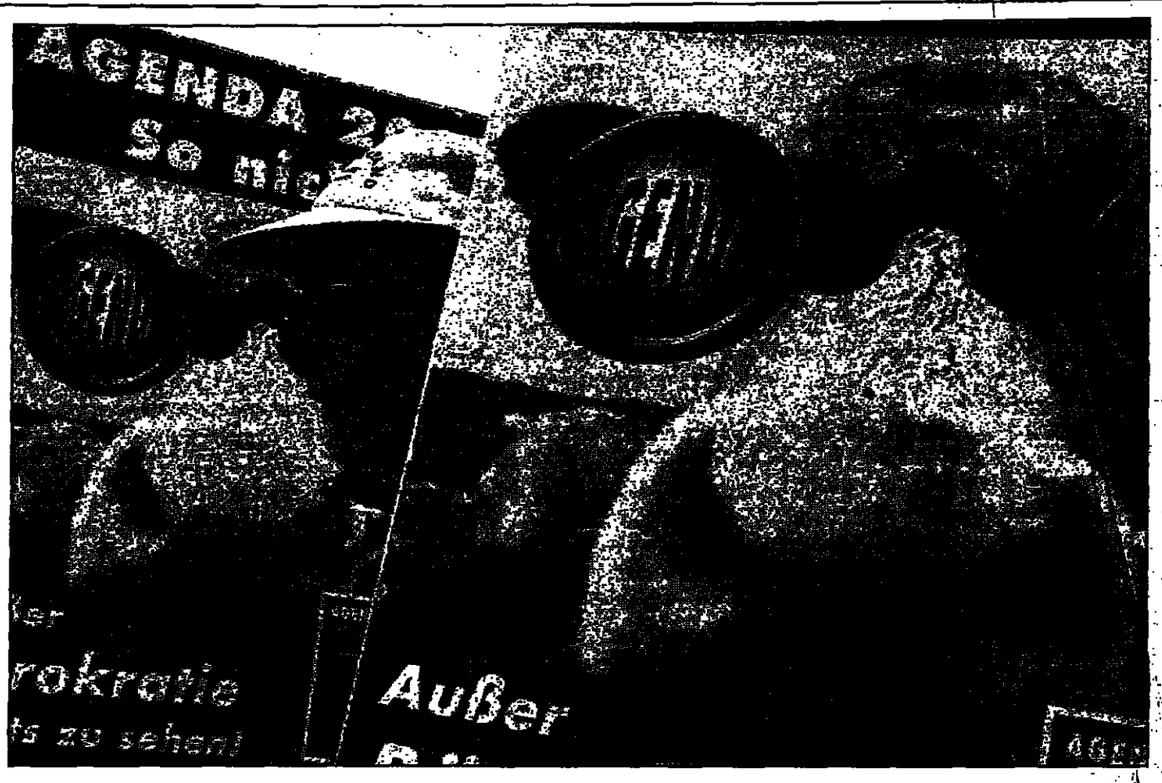
However, he added that despite the progress, there are still predictions that inflation will rise above the official target, and therefore the bank will have to continue to act cautiously.

Analysts noted that the central bank is not expected to cut interest rates sharply with the high uncertainty caused by upcoming elections.

Economists at Ilanot Batucha Investment House yesterday predicted the central bank will lower the rate by another 1% before elections. They said this will be done gradually in a series of cuts of no more than 0.5% at a time.

Ilanot Batucha expects the central bank to announce further cuts of up to 2% after the elections.

In a statement, the central bank warned politicians against increasing spending, saying now that the budget has been approved, it is important not to exceed its framework.



Farmers rage
A farmer appears between two posters during a demonstration in Brussels yesterday. Up to 30,000 farmers from across Europe gathered here to protest planned reforms to the European Union's agricultural policy. (Reuters)

Lockheed, to buy aerial photography systems from ElOp

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

ElOp Group and Lockheed Martin signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday, which includes an agreement for ElOp to supply aerial photography systems for the F-16 fighter jets manufactured by Lockheed Martin.

The systems will include cameras, payload, ground stations and communications arrays, officials said.

The understanding was signed in Tel Aviv with a representative of Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems (LMTAS), who are bidding to sell the IAF dozens of F-16 warplanes.

Under the agreement, LMTAS will be responsible for integrating and certifying the subsystems carried by the aircraft.

"The MOU we have signed today is an additional step in furthering the link between the worldwide F-16 program and the Israeli defense industry," said Micky Blackwell, president of the Aeronautics Sector at Lockheed Martin. He added that the agreement would help both Lockheed and ElOp penetrate new markets.

ElOp Group president and CEO Jacob Toren said the understanding was an "additional important tier" in its strategic cooperation, mergers and acquisitions program.

The privately owned ElOp Group company employs some 2,000 workers and has an announced turnover of $320 million.

Lockheed Martin executives were hesitant to say just how much the agreement could be worth, but noted that there may already be at least one customer for the reconnaissance pod.

Lockheed Martin is currently competing against Boeing to supply the IAF with its next generation fighter jet in a deal worth about $2.5 billion. The decision is expected to be made some time this spring.

Teva's 1998 net down 32.2%

ANALYSIS

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries yesterday reported its net income for 1998 dropped 32.18 percent to $68.8 million from $101.5m. a year earlier, while sales remained almost unchanged at $1.12b.

Results for the fourth quarter indicated, however, that the company's recovery, which started in the third quarter of 1998, is still on track. Net income for the last quarter of 1998 surged 39% to $29.6m. while sales increased 2% to $297m.

The results were in line with analysts' expectations who said that the positive trend is expected to continue.

"There is a clear improvement trend," said Shmuel Ben-Eliezer head of research at Solid Financial Markets. "The third quarter was better than the second, and the fourth was even better."

He added that if the company receives approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for some of its more promising products, there could be a real breakthrough. Last year Teva received nine FDA approvals for new generic products and is currently awaiting the approval of an additional 19 products, including seven from Teva affiliate Biovail Corp. International.

Israel's largest pharmaceutical company said the results were affected by one-time purchases of Biovail products still in the research and development stage, as well as for restructuring costs.

The company added during the year it had managed to substantially increase its presence in Europe while further improving its efficiency, which will lead to a reduction of $20m. in annual costs.

The results were also affected by rising competition which led to a decrease of $96m. in sales of the Clonazepam anti-convulsant drug. The decline in revenues from Clonazepam led to a 1% decrease in sales of pharmaceutical products, which represent some 78% of the group's activity, to $867.1m. last year.

Pharmaceutical sales in the US, Teva's main market, fell 11.2% to $434.5m. At the same time, sales in Europe rose to $214m. from $158.1m. mainly due to the inclusion of Pharmachemie sales following the acquisition of the Dutch generic drug company.

Concerning the Copaxone, Teva's multiple sclerosis treatment and most promising product, the company said that sales in North America rose "substantially" although the drug maker refrained from providing figures.

Interactive Internet is coming your way

BEEN HERE

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Imagine that you're sitting at your computer screen surveying the latest collection from The Gap on the Internet. You examine a pair of trousers, but you're not sure if you want them, maybe the color's not right, maybe they don't have your size. So you click another button and up pops a real-time video in the corner of your screen with an actual salesperson based somewhere – anywhere – in the world. You can talk to him directly, ask whatever questions you want, just as you would in a real store. This, according to Peter George president of Nortel Networks, Europe, Middle East and Africa, is the future. And it's only a few months away.

George, who was in Israel last week to attend the METRE conference where he was a keynote speaker, said the $18 billion communications giant Nortel already has the various technologies needed to create interactive Internet. It's just a case of putting it all together – a task that should be completed within a few months. He identified the convergence of voice, data and video as one of the key areas of growth in the hi-tech industry in coming years.

The Gartner Group estimates this converged market will be worth about $250b. It also said that in the near future some 50 percent of companies around the world will have some kind of converged networks, compared to just 10% today.

George believes Nortel, which employs some 80,000 people worldwide, is uniquely placed to provide services to this new market because of its combined expertise in both voice and data networks.

"We have thousands of man hours of data and voice experience which makes us unique on the market. No other company in the industry today has the voice and data experience we have," he said.

He said the company's vision for the future is to create a unified network – a merger of three areas of business.

These are infrastructure (the inclusion of voice and data networks within a product rather than as separate stand-alone products); network management; and applications (enabling PC users access to e-mail, fax mail, voice-mail and also video).

"Nortel can deliver on all those technologies," said George.

George also identified Israel as an important market for the company. "It's the fastest growing marketplace in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Israelis are real innovators. New technologies are adopted as quickly in Israel as they are in the US."

"The market is really adapting fast," agreed Kobie Paz, territory manager in charge of the eastern Mediterranean area for Bay Networks, a subsidiary of Nortel. "More than 60% of the products we sell here in Israel didn't exist the year before. Other countries are not moving into new technologies as fast as this. The market here is very sophisticated."

George pointed out that in Israel and the US today, there is more data traffic than voice traffic.

"Israel is clearly recognized as one of the centers of gravity for start-up technologies alongside Boston and Silicon Valley," said George. "We are always looking for new opportunities here and are interested in joint ventures, investments and purchases. We will expand out activities here. We have nothing to announce yet but we work at web time and web speed and making a decision today can rapidly become something real."

So far, Nortel has invested more than $100 million in Israel. The company owns a 20% stake in Telrad, and has purchased Israeli management services company, Armon, which is now known as Bay Networks Israel. Today some 250 million people use the Internet and that figure is doubling every 100 days.

"The market is absolutely exploding," said George. "When I was little I opened an encyclopedia when I had to do my homework. Today children search the Web, going to the greatest museums to research their topics. The Internet is changing the way people work, learn and play."

Dominion Resources to buy Consolidated Natural Gas

Dominion Resources Inc., the owner of Virginia's largest power company, agreed to buy Consolidated Natural Gas Co. for $8.41 billion in stock and assumed debt, forming the fourth-largest US electric and gas utility.

Dominion will issue 1.52 of its shares for each share of Consolidated, valuing the transaction at $64.22 a share based on Dominion's Friday close. That's a 22 percent premium to Consolidated's Thursday close, before the shares rose amid speculation of a takeover. Dominion will assume $2.15 billion of Consolidated's debt.

Dominion, whose largest holding is Virginia Electric & Power Co., needs to expand beyond its home market because deregulation likely will end its monopoly on local power sales, analysts said.

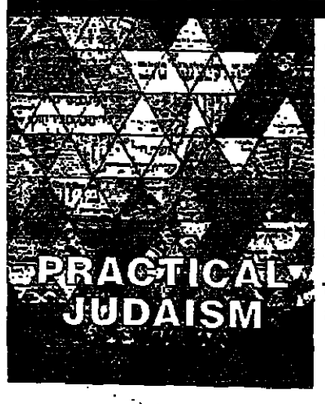
Dominion has been buying power plants in the UK and in the US Midwest and Northeast as those markets are deregulated.

"Electric utilities want to increase their customer bases, and buying gas utilities is a way to do it," said William Hyler, an analyst at CIBC Oppenheimer & Co. with a "buy" rating on Consolidated's stock.

Richmond, Virginia-based Dominion expects the acquisition to lead to "minimal" job cuts and save $150 million to $200 million a year by 2002.

Consolidated shareholders will own about 43 percent of the combined company, which will serve about 4 million customers in five states. It will have revenue of $8.8 billion a year and a market value of about $25 billion. (Bloomberg)

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Dow surges 2.3% • Yen sinks to 12-week low

SHARES

WALL STREET

NEW YORK (AP) – Stocks surged yesterday with help from a drop in bond market interest rates, a bounce in technology shares and a rise in merger activity.

The Dow Jones industrial average shot up 212.73 points, or 2.3 percent, to close at 9,552.68. It was the Dow's best showing in five weeks and left it within 90 points of its January 8 all-time high of 9,643.32.

Broader indicators also turned in solid gains in relatively slow trading.

The Dow was led higher by technology and financial shares.

The market also was helped by merger news. The US shares of Telecom Italia, the world's sixth-largest phone company, shot higher following a hostile takeover bid by the much smaller Italian company Olivetti SpA.

Bond prices were higher, pushing down interest rates in credit markets in advance of congressional testimony today by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan. With inflation under control and a third of the world in recession, it was viewed as unlikely that Greenspan would signal any move to push up interest rates and cool off the stock market and the US economy.

TEL AVIV

Israeli stocks were mixed yesterday, with Formula Systems leading gainers on newspaper reports it will sell a stake of an Internet entry site to *Yediot Aharonot*.

The market waited for the announcement of March interest rates from Bank of Israel. The Maof Index of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's 25 largest companies rose 0.20 percent to 314.96 after gaining 2.26 percent on Sunday. Fifteen stocks rose and 10 dropped.

Discount Investment Corp. slipped 0.24 percent to NIS 123.2. The holding company said chief executive Dov Tadmor is resigning after 14 years and will be replaced by deputy Chief Executive Yoram Turbowicz.

Israel Chemicals gained 0.74 percent to NIS 4.07. Mashov Computers Marketing jumped 19.5 percent to NIS 5.2 and Formula Systems gained 4.4 to NIS 108.4.

Israeli newspapers reported that *Yediot Aharonot* is in talks to acquire a stake in Mashov Computers Marketing, which Formula controls through its subsidiaries. Formula said last month it is looking for strategic investors to boost Mashov, which owns Hebrew Internet entry site Walla.

Point of Sale rose 1.1 percent to NIS 28.3. The maker of food-retailing software said that fourth quarter net income rose 69 percent to $1.3 million, or 12 cents a share, as sales grew 58 percent. The company was expected to earn 11 cents a share according to a IBES survey of three analysts.

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries gained 0.9 percent to NIS 175.1. Israel's largest drugmaker said fourth quarter profit from operations rose a greater than expected 50 percent to 51 cents a share as it cut costs in Europe and as sales grew for its multiple sclerosis treatment, Copaxone.

EUROPE

European stocks rose yesterday, with Telecom Italia SpA pulling telephone shares higher after it rejected rival Olivetti SpA's hostile $59 billion takeover bid, triggering hopes Olivetti will make a higher bid and other companies will start making offers of their own.

The Dow Jones Europe 50 Stoxx Index rose for a third day, gaining 32.35 points, or 0.95 percent, to 3420.01, with almost twice as many stocks rising as falling.

Olivetti's offer for Telecom Italia was Europe's most expensive ever. It valued the stock at 10 euros ($11) a share, a 10.5 percent premium above Friday's closing price. Analysts said the offer could be just the beginning of an extended battle for Italy's biggest phone company.

"I think it's a sector in ferment," said Marco Remorini, who helps manage about $1.5 billion in equities at Grifogest in Florence, Italy. "We think the weekend offer may not be the definitive offer." Telecom Italia rose 0.788 euro to 9.83, after reaching a record high of 10.08 euros earlier. The mobile-phone company it controls, Telecom Italia Mobile SpA, climbed 0.347 euro to 6.10 euros. Olivetti, which is one-seventh the size of its target, fell 0.225 euro to 2.99.

ASIA

Taiwan shares rallied, with the benchmark index posting its biggest two-day gain in five years, as banks surged on government steps to reduce bad debts.

The benchmark TWSE index rose 241.35, or 4.0 percent, to a one-month high of 6313.68. Its gain of 8.9 percent in the past two days was the biggest since January 4, 1994. Hua Nan Commercial Bank and First Commercial Bank both gained 7 percent on the bank stimulus package and a proposal to cut share trading taxes.

"These moves mark the government's biggest effort to shore up shares during the past few months," said Thomas Y. Tsao, president of Core Pacific Securities Investment Co., which manages NT$31 billion ($9.4 billion) in assets.

In other markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average rose 1.1 percent to a three-week high, led by exporters as the yen declined for a sixth day. The weaker yen though pushed South Korea's Kospi Index down 2.6 percent on concern that exporters' competitiveness will be hurt. Singapore's Straits Times Index rose 1.9 percent, led by Singapore Telecommunications Ltd., after an increase in international calls.



Maof 314.96 ▲ 0.2%
Dow Jones 9552.68 ▲ 2.3%
FTSE 6069.90 ▲ 0.64%
Nikkei 14256.67 ▼ 1.13%

CURRENCIES

The yen fell to its lowest level in 12 weeks against the dollar amid signs that officials from the world's leading industrial nations don't object to the Japanese currency's 7.1 percent drop this year.

Finance ministers and central bank heads from the Group of Seven countries meeting this weekend in Bonn refrained from mentioning the yen in a joint statement. Investors and traders interpreted that as a signal G-7 leaders welcome the decline in the yen, which would help boost Japanese economic growth.

"You've just had a G-7 meeting where policymakers indicated they can live with a stronger dollar and a weaker yen," said John Praveen, the global market strategist at Credit Suisse Asset Management, which manages $194 billion. The yen may drop to 130 per dollar in coming weeks, "depending on how aggressively" Japanese officials drive down bond yields, Praveen said.

The dollar rose for a sixth day to climb as high as 122.53 yen, its highest since reaching 122.54 yen on December 2. The US currency was at 121.92 yen from 120.71 late Friday in Europe.

The euro fell below $1.10 for the first time since its inception, dropping as low as $1.0962 amid expectations euro 11 economies will slow in coming months, prompting the European Central Bank to reduce benchmark interest rates. The euro declined to $1.0998 from about $1.1082 late Friday, down 5.9 percent from the level at which it was introduced at the end of last year of $1.16675.

Against the yen, traders snapped up dollars on speculation officials won't soon take any steps to slow the yen's descent.

"They didn't say they've got a problem with the speed of the move or the level of dollar-yen" at the weekend meeting, said Kai Jensen, chief trader at M.M. Warburg in Hamburg. "The market is taking that as an opportunity to buy dollars." The dollar could rise as high as 124 yen this week, said Jensen.

COMMODITIES

METALS

Silver and platinum group metals held steady in early European trade yesterday with tightening lease rates set to propel prices higher, dealers said.

Gold remained stuck in a range and was last quoted at $287.25/$287.65 a troy ounce, down from the close in New York on Friday at $289.50/$289.90.

Traders said platinum lease rates were tightening, with one-month metal at around eight percent and one-year at 8.5 percent.

Dealers said with a bigger backwardation on TOCOM and some buying out of Zurich, spot PGM prices would remain firm. The metals were supported by the tightening lease rates and concern over Russian0 exports.

ENERGY

Brent crude oil for April delivery was up 1 cent at $10.41 a barrel in afternoon trading on the International Petroleum Exchange in London, as traders watched for signs of whether OPEC will cut oil production when the group's oil ministers meet in March to discuss how to lift oil prices from near 12-year lows.

(News agencies)



London dubbed richest European city

MARKETWATCH
BY MATTHEW LYNN

London's posh restaurants and crowded coffee bars — or any real estate agent — could give you the same impression, but now it's official: London is the richest place in Europe.

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Community, has published a new study based on regional distribution of wealth in Europe. It shows that central London — the bit with the red double-decker buses and pin-striped bankers — is way ahead of all other European cities.

This inner London, the core city minus less prosperous outlying boroughs distinguished mainly for car factories, warehouses and public housing projects, has a population of 2.7 million people, a total gross domestic product of 90 billion euros ($100 billion) and a per capita GDP of 33,658 euros.

That gives London a wealth-rating equivalent to 222 percent of the European Union's average, putting it well ahead of its closest competitor, Hamburg, whose rating comes to 194 percent.

London's new-found status as the flashy member of Europe has never before been so clearly demonstrated, though Eurostat's figures also raise questions about its methodology. Berlin's rating, for instance, only gives it a per capita GDP of 21,176 euros, Milan's is listed at 19,351, while Madrid's is 14,314.

Indeed, after Hamburg the only European city that approaches London is Vienna, with a per-capita GDP of 28,689 euros.

The case of Paris, which likes to think of itself as a greater city than London, is instructive. Its per-capita GDP is given as 17,918 euros, or half that of the British capital, and below the European Union average.

But these figures are for greater Paris, which has a population of 10 million and embraces some poor suburbs. While Eurostat's London figures do include such working-class areas as Brixton, Vauxhall and Tower Hamlets, some outlying areas such as Richmond are excluded.

To find another time London had such a clear lead over the rest of Europe you'd have to go back at least a hundred years, to the Victorian era. In Victorian times, on the other hand, Liverpool was richer than London.

The regeneration of London in the last two decades has its roots in changes in the world economy — changes that, in ways nobody planned, turned out to be advantageous to the British city.

The liberalization of global finance has resulted in vast sums of money pouring into London, which was the most developed financial center in Europe and has become even more dominant.

Just as New York always benefited from being the financial center for a continental economy, so London now is benefiting from being continental Europe's financial center.

Another reason is that London now occupies a pivotal place in the commercial world. An English-speaking city, with a tradition of Anglo-Saxon law, is likely to prosper in a global economy in which English is the common language. The fact that London enjoys low taxes compared with the rest of Europe, and in effect is a tax haven for anyone who isn't English, makes it a particularly attractive place for businesses.

When Sweden's Pharmacia drugs company merged with Upjohn of the US, they decided to relocate headquarters in London, not Stockholm or New York, taking well-paid jobs from those cities.

So London also is becoming more of a global business magnet.

And the ancillary services that come with being a commercial center — law, accounting, consulting, advertising and media — are doing a booming trade in London. These too tend to be well-paid jobs, helping make London a richer city yet.

But as the EU statistics make clear, it is London that is booming, not Britain. The capital alone may have a greater GDP than all Greece (whose total GDP is given as 89.7 billion euros) but it is only a few hours drive from some of the European Union's poorest sections. Ipeiros in Greece, with a per-capita GDP of 5,607 euros, is listed as the poorest of Europe's 208 regions. Regions not far from London, such as West Wales and the Valleys, have a per capita GDP of 10,774 euros.

The richer cities in Europe's main countries are now two to three times as wealthy as the poorest regions, and the gaps aren't about to close. The introduction of the euro and the completion of a single market within Europe will concentrate economic power further, not disperse it.

The big financial and administrative cities such as London, Hamburg, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt and Milan have more in common with each other than they do with the poorer parts within their own national borders.

Economically, it makes little sense to think of London as being in the same place as Wales, just as it makes no sense to group Lombardy with Calabria. Even with monetary and economic union in its infancy, it's already clear that Europe is returning to where it was before the rise of the nation-state — a continent of wealthy cities surrounded by relatively impoverished hinterlands.

(Bloomberg)

FINANCIAL MARKETS

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	510	0
Africa Israel 0.1	18530	-1.4
Africa Israel 1	190000	0
Agis	2040	0
Al Paper Mills	12599	0.6
Al-Rov	1710	0
Azorim	3180	0.3
Azorim Prop.	780	0
Bank Leumi 0.1	597	0.3
Blanco	33250	0.5
Bayside 1	44500	0
Bayside 5	216000	-0.2
Bezeq	1347	0.2
Blue Square	5190	2.4
Bromine	2560	-0.8
Delek	2060	0
Delek Electronics	63000	-1.1
Delek Industries	1918	-0.9
Delek Insurance	3460	-1.7
Delek Israel 1	3610	0.9
Dan Hotels	681	0.5
Danimer	2030	0.5
Delisa	1230	0
Dead Sea Works 0.1	933	3.6
Delek 0.1	10820	3.4
Delek Car	804	0.6
Delta 1	3880	-0.5
Development Mort	17500	0.6
Discount Bank	357	1.1
Electronic Inv.	12320	-0.2
Elbit 0.005	1511	2.5
Elbit Imaging	4590	0
Elbit Systems	5420	-0.2
Elco Holdings	2100	1
Elco Industries	3460	0
Electra	17980	-0.1
Electra App	3070	1
Elite Ind 1	2898	2.1
Elite Ind. 5	14180	1.2
Elron 0.005	6660	-0.7
Elron 5	27740	0
First Int'l 1	425	3.9
First Int'l 5	2000	0.7
First Int'l Mort.	31000	0
Formula	10940	4.4
Gazeus Bank	6800	-2.9
Gazit Hagroup	983	-1.4
Hadera Paper	7480	1.9
Hapoalim 0.1	769	-0.8
Israel Chemicals 1	3250	0
Israel Makhteshim	16510	0.5
Home Center	3940	1.3
I.D.B. Dev.	8850	0.1
I.D.B. Holdings	8580	0.1
IDB	2140	-2.3
Ind Bldgs	497	0.2
Israel Corporation	807	0.7
Israel Cr. 1	94700	1.5
Isrotel	600	2.7
Jubar	750	0
Kur	29.6	-1.4
Koor	1584	1.4
Klil	415	-1.2
Koolyeh	4300	0.9
Kur	38100	-0.8
Lapidot Semiconductor	219	0.9
Leumi Mortgage	66800	0.6
Melisron	8200	0.6
Migdal	832	-1
Mivtach Shamir Agric Inst	500	0
Mizrahi	4735	-0.4
Mordechai	12040	-0.5
Nat Bezeq	1540	0
Nice	1021	0
Nitzba Isr. 1	1589	0
Nitzba	63000	2.4
Nitzba Shamir	2845	2.3
Nur	783	-0.6

	LAST	CHANGE*
NATSWA REGULAR	1500	2.5
Nice Systems	11370	0
Ormat Industries	468	-0.2
Osem Industries	1827	4
Petrochemicals	2100	0
Phoenix Ins. 1	881	0
Plasson	4250	1.2
Positiv Inv.	11800	0
Point of Sale	2830	1.1
Prop & Bldg	31800	-0.3
Salt Industries	1850	3.2
Shikun u'Binui	266	0
Solel Bone	3810	-2.4
Supersol	1090	-0.5
Tadiran	1820	1.2
Tambour	527	1.3
Teldor	180000	-0.3
Tempo	1535	0
Teva	17510	0.9
Ucope Israel	2060	-0.7
Wire and Cables	1125	0
Ytong Industries	930	0

RETZEF
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Alplec	1.8	0
Abuli	42.8	0
Ace-Spade	67.3	0
Ackerstein Bond B	183.4	0
Ackerstein Ind.	428	2.2
Ackerstein ZM 1	1470	0
Ackerstein ZM 5	8000	0
Adamin	297400	0
Adler	120	0
Adelta	120	0
Adumim	510	0
Africa Hotels Bond B	97.6	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	68.6	1.2
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	141.1	0.1
Afsek, Ind	974	0
Agis Warrant 4	191	0
Agisth Int'l	305	0
Agol Investments	480	0
Al-Bad	149.9	0
Al-Bad Bond A	415	-0.4
Alfa c2	96.5	0.5
Alfa wt	109	9
Alliance	570	0.9
Alon	270	0
Alony-Hetz	464	-1.9
Alony-Hetz Bond A	218	2.7
Alrov	200	0
Alrov Warrant 1	0	0
Alrov Bond D	82.8	0.4
Alrov Warrant 5	70	0
Alumir	266	0
Alumit	2100	0
Amdocs	209	0
Amidar	127	0
Amot	85	5.9
Ammunit Warrant 1	682	-2.6
Anmot	9500	0
Ampa Investments	855	-0.5
Analyst EMS	58.5	0
Angel Trade	161	0
Angel Trade Bond A	129	0
Angel Trade Bond B	63.5	0.2
Angel Trade Bond C	867	-2.4
Apcon	170	0
Apcon warrant 1	3416	0.4
Applicom	300	5.3
Aricell Warrant 2	1250	0
Arad	1395	0
Arad Textile	120	0.2
Aristeir	127	0
Argamon	135	0
Arkia	95	-5.9
Ashdar	514	0
Ashkelon Plywood	159	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2		

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ashtad	510	0
Ashtad Bond A	162.2	0
Ashot	247	0
Ashot Bond A	182	-0.5
Ashpex	95	5.6
Ashtrom Bond 1	180.2	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	186.5	0
Ashtrom Ind.	569	0
Ashtrom Prop.	770.1	1
Ashtrom P Bond 1	94	0
Ashtrom p warrant a	21.9	-3.9
Astrum Bond C	105.5	0
Astrum Warrant 2	17.7	0
Atlon	80	0
Atmor	962	-3.7
ATX	181	3.4
Azorim	160	0
Aura	4600	-0.9
Avarot	280	0
Avarot Bond A	185	0
Avenbuch Formica	800	0
Aviv	400	0
Aviv Bond 1	161.1	0.1
Aviv Bond 2	88.8	0
Avner	4.8	0
Avrot Bond 2	96	0
Avrot Warrant 2	30	20
Ayalon	868	-5
Azrieli	444	0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	183.1	0
Azorim Warrant 19	400	0
Azorim Warrant 5	102.5	0
Azorim Warrant A	168	0
Azorim Warrant B	482	0
Badash Bond 1	25.1	0
Bafkit	269	0
Batamina 1	143.5	0
Batamina Bond A	122.5	0
Batron	3980	0
Bama'asef	950	0
Bama'asef Bond A	149.7	0
Bar	333	0
Bar Bond A	137	0
Barad	238	0
Bastonwitz	545	7.5
Bedan	600	-3.1
Bansol	109	0
Bartal	229	0
Baumol Moshe	183.5	0
BaySide Bond 2	94.3	0
BaySide Warrant D	1031	0
Beit Shemesh	1590	-1.2
Belkron	415	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	185	0
Ben Yakar Bond B	87	0
Ben Yakar Gal	4300	0
Benmon	150	0
Berek Bond 3	134.1	0.1
Berek Warrant Bond 3	319	2.3
Bilu	2100	5
Bilu Bond A	166	0
Binat	280	0
Bid	292	0
Bokos Bond B	85.9	0.5
bokos ged warrant 1	30.5	-10.9
Bonet Tichon	499	0
Bongour	545	0
Boulous Brothers	121.4	-0.1
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	268	-0.4
Boulous Gb	300	-21.7
Boulous GD Bond A	140.1	0.1
Brand	99	0
Brit	36	0
Brok Skie	14.3	0
Broad	102	-9.3
Building Bank	1257	0
Building Resou	4100	-0.7
C Holdings	210	-8.7
C Holdings Bond 5	65.4	-0.9
Caesarea 1	6250	-5
Capital	964	-0.6
Capital Bond A	119.8	-4.9
Caprice	269	0
Cargal	559	-2.8
Carmel	500	0
Carmel	368	-9.9
Castro	495	-1

	LAST	CHANGE*
Catalena 1	431	0
CCI	169	0
Cementkol Bond A	92.1	4.4
Cementkol	231	9
Centre	150	0
Centre Bond 1	141.2	0
Cham	386	0
Chayun Computers	161	0
Cheminpl	469	0
Chim-Nir	335	-5.4
Ci Systems	119	0
Cidalo	300	4.2
Ciel Computers	10530	0.7
Ciel Rassil	49700	0
Cohen Ben	151	0
Cohen Dev.	150	-7.4
Cohen Mill	130	0
Cold Storage 1	2250	0
Compi	147	1.4
Compi Warrant 1	11.7	0
Compulite	190	0
Comtech	430	0
Comtrans	809	0
Contal	1180	4.8
Contractors	21800	0
Coral Beach	788	0
Credit Line	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	2640	-0.4
Cyclone Bond 2	173.8	4.2
Delron	1391	0
Delta	1	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	799	3.4
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	168.5	0.5
Danber 1	3380	0
Danber 5	8500	1.2
Danber Bond A	284	0
Danber Resources	3970	0
Danber Resources Bond B	177	0
Danber Tech.	3720	0
Danber Technologies Bond A	169	0
Danel	90	0
Danel Bond A	91.5	0
Danel Personnel	1930	0
Daniel Warrant 2	151	0
Dankner Bond 1	217	-0.8
Dankner Bond 2	148	0
Dankner Bond 3	94.1	0
Dankner Warrant C	360	0
Danly	420	5
Darad	109.4	0
DARBAN BOND 2	101.5	0
Darban Bond A	171.1	-0.5
Darban Warrant 3	30.2	-48.7
Dares	154.6	0
Darlon	269	0
Dash Investment	540	0
Data	610	0
Decision Systems	304	0
Degem Systems	392	0.5
Delek DrilSag	14.5	-7
Delek Oil	1497	0
Destiny	1092	0
Digal	1382	0
Dimorf	1400	0
Dolev	358	0
Dolev Bond A	146.1	0
Dolev warrant 1	13.3	0
Domtzar	461	0
Domtzar Bond	183.2	0
Dor Bergar	270	0
Dor Chem	290	0
Dor Energy	1250	-1
Dorc wt	41.6	0
Doron	50.6	0
Dori cri	98.9	0
Dori Engineering	472	0
Dori Engineering Bond A	144.8	-0.7
Dovrat Bond A	147.8	0
Dovrat Shrem	1498	1.6
DSL	840	0
Dubek M	2.9	0
Dubek B	3	0
Dunitz	230	0
DVG Industries	430	0
E & M Computing	1301	4.1
Edgar Alborit	49.8	0
Edgar Industries	205	2.5

	LAST	CHANGE*
Edgar Inv. Bond C	89.5	0.3
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	17	0
Elbit Bond A	98	0
Elnl	152	0
Elsun	350	0
Elorsain	3670	0
El Bad	2180	-3.9
El Canit	395	-9.2
El Canit Bond 1	168	0
Elad	468	0
Elad Bond A	178	0
Elad Bond B	150.3	-0.3
Elad c3	75	0
Elad wt	15	0
Elal Computers Bond B	135.3	0.2
Elden Tech	175	0
Electronics Line	699	0
Elgar	7000	0
Elisch Ind.	567	4.7
Ellam	280	0
Ella	276	0
Ella Bond A	144	-1.7
Elron	9000	0
Emek	197.9	0
Emyle	965	1.6
Engel Const.	590	0
ESE	1468	2.5
Eshed Robotech	1925	0
Even	492	0
Evros Warrant 1	1243	0
Excelence	1495	2.1
Export Inv.	778	0
Extra	124	0
Feldmas	83	0
Feldman Bond A	157.5	0
Feldmen Ind.	250	0
Feuchtwanger 1	7540	0
Feuchtwanger 5	30000	1.2
Fidelity	2950	0
Five J Jewelers	371	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	137	0
Formica Source	100	0
Fruzurom	377	0.3
Gehetet	11020	1.1
Gelcom	84.2	0
Gelisa	1350	0
Gema	139	0
Gematronic	699	0
Gembil	3000	0
Gen Shmoel Bond A	111.1	1
Gen Shmoel Warrant 3	376	-1.3
Gen Shmuel	1320	-5.6
Genel Hader	494	0
Gep Development	125	0
Gep Holdings	185	0
Gep Warrant 2	1	0
Glass	709	0
Gazit Bond C	132.7	0.5
Gibor Bond 1	85	0
Gibor Bond A	86.3	0
Gibor Sabrina	82	0
Gibor Sport	681	0
Gibor Warrant 2	92	0
Gibcos	54	0
Gilo	180	0
Gilsak	1970	0
Givat Olam Oil	110	0
Glob Rif	847	0
Golan	450	0
Gold	375	0
Golden House	512	0
Golex	217	0
Gurit Bond	158	0.4
Granis Bond 2	151.2	-0.5
Green Software	109.8	9.8
Greenberg	1250	0.8
H. Electronics	49.2	0
H. Mor	815	0
Habas	3480	0
Habas Bond 1	134	0
Hadar 1	29000	0
Hadar 5	100000	0
Hader Ins. 1	588	-1.3
Hader Ins. 5	2520	-0.8
Haderim Bondi,	117.5	0
Haderim Warrant	380	1.1
Hagal	439	0
Hagai Bond B	165	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ham-Let	1300	0.8
Hamelor	159.5	0
Hanel	43.3	-2.5
Hasin Esh	887	0
Hason	249	9.1
Hasahot 1	159	-8.6
Hasahot Bond A	150.1	0
Hasel	1185	0
Hayal Bond2	110	0
Hayal Warrant 1	78.5	-0.4
Hed Arzi Music	275	0
Heron 1	10150	0
Heron 5	34000	0
HL Service Bond 2	191.1	0
HL Service Bond 3	154	0.1
HL Services	2399	0
Hod	102	-2.9
Hof	920	0
Holit	170	0
Hydrotics	115	0
IES Industries	229	0
IES Warrant 1	25.5	0
Ilan Gal	118	0
Ilan Gat Bond A	153.7	0
ILDC Bond 6	270	0
ILDC Hotels	305	0.3
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	0	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	89	-18.3
ILDC Insurance	570	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	141.7	-0.2
Imco	887	0
Ind Bld Warrant 3	16.5	-14.1
Ind Bldgs R1	2.1	5
Ind.Dev.Bank C	341	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	3250	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	3370	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1362	-0.6
Independence Mort	43500	2.4
Interacoms	1050	0
Intergamma 1	2480	0
Intergamma 5	11700	0
Inventech	575	0
Iscal	1099	0
Ispro	5800	2
Isracolor	481	3.6
Israel Corp. 5	150000	3.4
Israel Lightsavge Bond 3	148.5	1.2
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	190.3	-0.9
Israfom	1085	0
Israfom Bond C	88.5	0
Issamco	2.6	4
Issta 1	6750	0
Issta 5	29600	0
ISTA LINES	2250	0
Itay	2200	0
Itay Bond 1	80	-0.7
Itay Warrant 1	360	0
Jakura Bond A	165	0
Jaycour	188	0
Jaycour Bond A	119.8	0
JEC Bond B	97	-1
Jerusalem Mort	180	-1
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 15	173	0
Jerusseze	30.2	0
JOEL	550	3.8
JOEL Bond 1A	244	0
JOEL Bond 2	134	1.7
JOEL Bond A	244	-0.4
JOEL Warrant 3	2.6	0
Kadimeh	119	0
Kadoori	729	0
kahlice bond b	92	0
kahlice warrant 1	64	0
Kahlil	1120	1.8
Kahlili Bond A	94.1	0.1
Kalkelit warrant 2	198	-0.8
Kamour	296	-5.1
Kamour Bond G	137	0
Kanaani	916	2.5
Karel Warrant G	1	0
Kanicel	30	0
Kanicel Bond A	42.7	0
Kantan 1	515	0
Kantan 5	2500	-1.2
Katz	126	0
Katz Bond A	80.5	0
Kedem Chemicals	2660	7.7
Kenlex	516	0
Kesher	801	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Keshet Bond A	154	0
Keter	622	0
Kinrot	15.4	0
Kinrot Bond A	33	0
King	239	8.7
Kinneret	169	0
Klech Kinor	183	4.6
Kishrei Teufa	1132	0
Kitan	220	0
Kitai Bond A	175	-0.6
Kitai Bond A	84	-6.7
Klil Ind. 5	8880	0
Koor Bond 5	146.5	0.6
Kopel	333	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Kopel Bond 1	251	0
La Nationale Bond A	151.5	0
La Nationale Pref	125	0
Lachish	2800	2.4
Lamont	810	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	-9.1
Lapidot Oil Explorers	65.2	5
Lasers	430	4.4
Lavtov	450	0
Lazmick Bldg	448	0
Lazmick Comm Cons	136.8	0
Lazmick Commercial Centres Bond	143.5	0
Lazmick Ind Bldgs	310	0
Lazmick Industrial Bldgs, Bond A	147.8	0
Leader	998	1.5
Lego	437	0
Leumi Warrant 5	42.8	-0.7
Leventhel	660	0
Levi	484	0
Levi Bond A	144	0
Levi Bond B	93	0
Levi Warrant 2	25	-11.6
Levinstein Bond A	389	0
Levinstein Warrant 2	4450	0
Levinstein	3210	0
Liber	334	0
Lidan	1400	0
Likhir 1	169	0.6
Likhir 5	520	0
Ligad	253	0
Ligad Bond 1	163	0
Lightsavge 1	828	1
LMS	345	0
Lipman	3490	7.5

	LAST	CHANGE*
Mashbir	.517	-2.5
Mashov	.513	3.8
Mashov	.220	19.5
Matam	.1522	0
Matav Warrant 1	.1390	2.3
Maxima 1	.375	0
Maxima 5	.1349	-5
Mazpek	.810	-4.6
Med. Hotels	.39.4	18.2
Medtechnics	.551	0.4
Mediechnics Bond A	.143	0
Mediechnics Bond B	.83.5	0
Mediechnics Warrant 2	.40	0
Megason	.57.5	0
Meimad	.1950	0
Meir Ezra	.1420	-2.1
Melet	.256	-3
Melisaaron Bond B	.95	0
Melisaaron Warrant 3	.37	0
Mendelson	.291	0
Menorim	.24	0
Menorah Ins. 5	.6900	3
Merkazit	.630	5.2
Meshav	.127	0
Meytav	.164	0
Middle East Tube	.180	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	.115	-0.4
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	.1	0
Milmor Bond A	.143.5	0
Milomar Bond B	.75	-0.7
Milomar Warrant 2	.95	9.1
Milomor	.1467	0
Minaser	.132.9	0
Mint Line	.857	0
Minuny	.13250	-0.4
Mirage	.165	-8.4
Mirage Bond A	.135.3	-2.9
Miromit	.60	0
Mishmeret	.19	0
Mishmeret Bond B	.58	0
Mishor Hahol	.355	-4.1
Mitcmmi	.115	-8.7
Mivtach Shamir	.1106	0
Mizrahi Inv.	.9940	0
Mizrahi warrant 2	.60	-1.5
MM Engineering	.101	0
MM Engineering Bond A	.71.6	0
Modgal	.785	0
Mohot	.186.7	1.8
Mofiet Convertible Bond AAA	.214	-0.5
Molket	.862	0
Mons Plastic Ind.	.362	0
Moshkovitz	.142	-5.3
MTI Computers	.243	0
Mul-T-Lock	.670	0
Multi Sense	.223	0
Nachalron Fund	.35	0
Naphtha	.22	-4.3
Naphtha Oil Exp.	.26	0
Natour	.660	0
NATSWA BOND A	.108	0
Navigator	.222	0
Navigator Property	.906	-1.4
Nechushtan Bond B	.70.7	0.3
Nechushtan Prop.	.155.9	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	...145	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	.17.9	-10.5
Negev Ceramics	.186.3	0
Nehushtan 1	.470	0
Nehushtan 5	.2600	0
Neot Aviv	.7100	1.4
Nemus	.427	0
Neve Arbel	.185	0
Newen Hotels	.364	0
Newot	.835	0
Nia	.256	9.8
Nilaw	.668	1.8
Nisco	.1948	3.6
Nissan	.280	0
NMC	.231	1.3
Noga	.1590	0
Noga Insorens	.74	-1.2
Nordan	.134	0
Nordan Tech.	.500	0
Norlolk	.596	0
Norlolk Bond A	.151	0
Nur	.63	0
NYP	.1210	0
Ozsarna	.272	0
Ocil	.8000	-0.1
Ocil Bond A	.192	0
Ocil Bond C	.92	0.1
Ocil Warrant 2	.520	0
Octova	.495	0
Ofek	.219	0
Oler Bro	.6700	0
Offle	.950	0
Ogden	.61	0
Ofrallev	.588	0
Oil Fields	.2.2	4.8
Oil-Dok	.345	-1.6
Omrit	.253	0
Omrtech	.210	0
Ophir	.300	-0.7
Ophir Toure	.440	0
Oppenheimer	.88	0
Optima	.143	0
Orayan	.2850	0
Orazil	.500	0
Orazil Bond A	.172.4	0
Orbit	.787	0
Orda	.2480	0
Orda Bond 1	.182.2	-1.8
Orev	.809	0
Orell	.111.9	0
Orlite	.298	0
Orlita Bond A	.91.5	-1
Orlite Warrant 2	.48	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	.135	0
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	.10.5	19.3
Ornit	.385	0
Ozar Hashilon	.22500	-1.7
Oz	.145	0
Oz allde	.375	0
Packer Steel	.5700	0
Palrough	.823	3.3
PAM	.349	5.8
Pama	.605	0
Pames	.1799	0
Pan Dor	.250	-3.8
Pardes	.600	0
Pardes Bond A	.42	0
Passport	.1455	-2
Paz Chen	.520	0
PCB	.1012	1
Pdan Investment	.27.5	-8.9
Perag	.125	0
Perlclase	.370	1.7
Phoenix Ins. 5	.3230	0
Pics Plast	.300	0
Pilat	.84.5	0
Pimrix	.130	0
Pisaros Bond A	.144	0
Pitrol	.401	0
Plason bond a	.101.6	0
Plason warrant 1	.353	-5.6
Plasto Sac	.555	0
Plasto Shack Bond A	.89	0
Plasto Shack Warrant 2	.38	0
Poalim Inv Bond B	.94.5	0
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	.1935	-0.8
Poalim Investments Bond A	.143	0
Polak	.200	-5.7
Polgat A	.385	0.8
Polgat B 4	.1560	1.3
Polygon	.2000	0
Ponlz	.212	1.4
Port	.115	0
Poseidon	.90	1.4
Pri Haemek	.21	0
Pri Haemek Bond A	.351	0
Pritzker	.170.5	0
Pritzker Bond A	.162.5	0
Profit	.440	0
Profit Bond A	.138	0
Python	.479	6.7
Quality Cap Mids	.470	6.8
Rabanka	.236	9.8
Ram Zur	.57.4	-4.3
Ramgor 1	.170	0
Ramgor 4	.455	0
Rapak	.2080	0
Rapak Bond A	.160.1	0
Rassco	.1400	0.7
Ratio	.1	0
Rav Gar	.178	0
Ravad	.137	0
RDC	.889	0
RDC Bond A	.150.5	0
Red Sea Hotels	.730	0
Regency	.109.7	0
Regency Bond 1	.128	0
Regent Bond A	.156	0
Rekah	.400	0
Reshet	.55	0
Reshet Bond B	.114.1	6.2
Resorn	.755	0
Rogosn	.1820	-2.7
Rogozn Bond A	.84.5	1.2
Rogozn Warrant B	.401	0
Rolntech	.430	0
Rosebud	.86.6	0
Rosental	.104	-0.5
Rotem	.246	0
Rotstein	.120	0
Rotshlem Bond A	.140	0
RSL	.535	0
Sadot Mop Bond A	.101.5	0.1
Sagie Prop. Bond 1	.26	-7.1
Saller Bond a	.35	0
Sahar Dev.	.2790	0
Saher Securities	.360	0
Saher Warrant 1	.290	0
Sanlacol	.342	5.6
Sano 1	.2770	0
Sano 5	.14000	0
Scope	.1170	0
Scope Bond A	.94	0
Scope Warrant 2	.66	0
Sea Trade	.481	0
Secom	.278	-4.1
Securitas	.900	2.3
Securitas Bond A	.180.9	-0.4
Selan	.1185	0
Serafon	.365	0
Shaked	.328	0
Shamir	.578	0
Shatlyah	.900	0
Shel	.269	0
Shekel	.220	0
Shekel Bond A	.155.5	-0.3
Shekem	.67.4	-0.1
Shekem Bond 1	.152.7	0
Shelleg	.121	0
Shem Tov	.305	0
Shemen	.11600	0
Shlador	.57	-5
Shlomo Angel	.5750	9.5
Shmi c2	.66.7	0.1
Shmi w2	.192	0
Shmira	.714	-5.6
Shmira Bond A	.158.6	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Shriv	.480	-0.9
Shreg	.87.7	2
Shufersl	.445	1.4
Shufersl Bond A	.148.9	0
Sllnal	.693	0
Sipal Bond A	.150.9	-0.1
Solel Bone Bond A	.110	1
Soll BoneR1	.38.9	-5.6
Solog	.600	-1.3
Solomon	.576	0
solomon bond a	.80	0
Solomon Holdings	.388	0
solomon warrant 2	.59	0
South Pipe	.353	0
Spancrll	.175	0
Spectronix 1	.1249	0.5
STG	.1020	0
STG Bond A	.116	-0.1
Suntropl	.4050	3.1
Surry Electronics	.728	0
Syncpass	.172	0
Synopass Bond A	.151.1	0
Syntec	.300	-1.5
Ta'al	.185.7	0
Tachof Bond B	.91	0
Tachof Warrant 3	.68.6	0
Tadiek	.220	0
Tadiran Appl	.574	-0.2
Tal	.130	0
Tal Bond A	.39	0
TAP Bond 1	.265	0
Tashkor bond a	.121.5	0
Tashkor warrant 2	.184.1	0
Tashkuz	.0	0
Tashuz Bond A	.158.6	0
Tashkuz Bond B	.146.4	0
Taste of Israel	.176	0
TAT 1	.410	0
TAT 5	.1316	-1.9
Taya	.786	-9.2
Taya Comm. 1	.350	0
Team Computers	.5550	1.3
Technoplast	.661	-0.6
Tedea	.1470	1.7
Tedea Bond A	.109	0
Tedea Warrant 1	.157	0
Telekol Preferred	.188500	0.1
Telen	.1630	0
Teldor	.508	0.2
Telrad	.1250	3.2
Telsis	.200	0
Telsis Warrant 1	.180	-9.1
Tema	.190	0.2
Teuza	.185.6	-3.2
Teuza insured	.122	-8
Tibon Veol	.530	0
Tim Warrant 3	.380	0
Tiv	.158	0
TMM	.1863	0
Tobee	.1050	6.5
Tom	.500	0
Topline	.1694	0.4
Topline Bond 2	.46.2	0
Topper	.222	0
Tosaf Compounds	.376	0
Tlade	.371	0.5
Trade Bond A	.215	0
Trend Line	.1800	0
Trocadero	.36	0
Tryfoll	.513	0
Tsaber	.188	0
Tsarfati	.576	0
Tsarfati Bond A	.154	0
Tsur	.153	0
Tsur Bond A	.259	0
Tsur Bond B	.117.5	0.3
Tsur Bond C	.100.7	0
Tsur Preferred	.155	0
Tuttenauer	.930	0.5
Tzahlsha	.520	0
Ullapiu	.38	0
Unither 1	.764	0
Unither 5	.784	0
Unico	.4500	0
Unicorn 1	.34	0
Unicorn Bond 1	.300	0
Unidrnes	.2070	0
United Steel	.123.8	0.2
United Steel Industries Bond 1	.160.5	0.1
Universol	.481	-0.8
Urdan	.260	0
Vardlnon	.25300	0
Vardinon Bond A	.189.8	0.8
Vardinon Convertible Bond AAA	.154.3	0.7
Videomatrix	.28.7	0
Vllar	.444	0
Vllar Bond 1	.161	0
Vla Food	.1200	0
Vllager Bond A	.158	0
Vltallgo	.340	-1.4
Vltallgo Bond A	.133.8	0
Vulcan	.491	0
Will Bond A	.98.9	2.3
Will Warrant 1	.325	0
Woolfman 1	.467	0
Woolfman 5	.2200	0
Woolfson	.68000	0
Ya'ani	.671	-1.375
Yaacobi	.116	-3.3
Yaad Bond A	.186.2	0
Yaad Bond B	.81.3	0
Yaad Industries	.328	4.5
Yaad Warrant 3	.80	0
Yad	.490	0
Yamz	.186	0
Yardan	.429	4.1
Yardan Bond 2	.1131	0
YDPZ	.270	0
YDPZ Bond A	.155	0
Yeda	.1590	0
Yehuda	.209	0
Yesh Gad	.39.7	0
Yhrel	.1620	0
Yisshai Warrant 1	.375	0
Yona Hotels	.194	0
Yozma	.432	0
Yuval	.124	0
Zahlr	.565	0
Zanes Holdings	.54.5	0
Zarfati Bond B	.91	0.2
Zarfati Warrant 2	.19	0
Zat	.100.9	0
Zehavi	.149	0
Zeller Ablegon	.417	0
Zeller Ablegon Bond A	.157	0
Zeller Ablegon Bond B	.118	-0.4
Zeller Inv. Bond A	.83.6	0
Zeller Inv. Warrant 1	.3.4	6.3
Zika 1	.565	0
Zika 5	.2540	0
Zlot 1	.2750	0
Zlot 5	.10100	0
Zinomatal	.540	0
Zion Cables 1	.245	4.3
Zion Holdings	.14900	0
Zion Textiles	.218	0
Zir	.905	0
Zohar	.278	0
Zoko	.288	0

AMEX

Am Israel Paper Mills	.37.75	+0.5
Ampal American Israel	.3.9375	-0.1875
Carmel Container Sys	.5.875	0
Electro Chemical Ind	.0.6875	0
Emplitek	.7	+0.125
Etz Lavud	.9.5	0
Etz Lavud Cl A	.5.125	0
Integrated Technology	.1.6875	+0.0625

NASDAQ

ACS Electronics Ltd	.2.1875	+0.1875
Accent Software	.0.21875	-0.0625
A.G. Associates	.5.375	0
Aladdin	.10.75	-0.375
Ampal	.11.375	0
Arel Commun & Software	.8.03125	-0.09375
Arel Comm & Soft Warrant	.1.09125	+0.03125
Better Online Solutions	.5.125	+0.25
Better Online Sol Ltd 99	.0.34375	0
Blogen Inc	.88.375	+1.25
Bio Technology General	.6.6875	-0.25125
B.V.R. Systems Ltd	.9	-0.0625
B.V.R. Technologies	.2.71875	+0.25
Checkpoint Software	.37.5625	-0.0625
Camatron	.1.625	+0
Comverse Technology	.74.25	+4.25
Crystal Systems Solutions	.8.75	+0.6875
D.S.P.G. Group	.14.9375	+0.3125
D.S.P.T. Tech	.8.375	-0.25
Data Systems Software	.2.0625	+0
ECI Telecom	.37.125	+2.9375
Edusoft	.7.875	-0.0625
Electric Fuel	.3.5625	+0.0625
Electronics for Imaging	.35.75	+0.6125
Elbit Computers	.3.71875	+0.28125
Elron Electronics ord	.16.5	+0.5
Elbit Medical Imaging	.11.3125	+0.25
Elbit Systems Ltd	.13.1875	+0.0625
Elsek Circuit Boards	.0.90625	-0.03125
Engel General Developers	.2.125	0
ESC Medical Systems Ltd	.5	+0
Elbit Vision Systems	.1.9375	+0.15625
Eshed Robotic (1982)	.0.375	+0
Formula Systems (1985)	.27.25	+1.3125
Foracle Ltd	.0.8125	-0.0625
Fundtech	.20.9375	-0.0625
Galileo	.22.875	+1.375
G Willi-Food	.1.0625	+0.0625
Gilat Comm Ltd	.9.5625	+0.375
Gilat Satellite Networks	.61.5	+1
Healthcare Technologies	.0.84375	-0.15625
Home Center	.9.875	+0
I.C.T.S.	.4.9375	-0.1875
IIC Industries	.9.53125	0
U.S. Intelligent Info	.0.5625	+0
Israel Land Develop - ADR	.15	0
Indigo	.4.375	+0.0625
ISG Intl Software Group	.11.25	+0.5
Isramco	.2.1875	-0.03125
Lan Optics	.2.25	-0.125
Logal	.0.5625	+0.125
Level 8 Systems	.10.0625	+0.0625
M-Systems Flash Disk	.3.875	-0.0625
Medge	.3.6875	+0
Magal Security Systems	.3.25	+0
Matav	.23.375	+0.375
Media El	.6.4375	+0
Menlco	.11.5	+0.1875
Mer Telemanagement	.1.375	-0.0625
Mercury	.61.125	+5.25
Magic Software Enterprises	.6	+0.25
Nelmarage	.2.5	+0.0625
New Dimension Software	.48	+4.875
Nexus Telecomm Sys Ltd	.2.4375	+0.1875
Nice Systems	.29.5625	+1
Neuro-Medical Systems	.0.28125	-0.03125
Noga Electro Mechanical	.0.875	+0
Nur Technology	.3.0625	-0.0625
Opti Systemic Solutions	.7.625	-0.625
Optomedics Medical Tech	.1	+0.125
Optomedics Medical Warrant	.0.3125	+0
Orbit/IMR Inc.	.2.15625	+0.03125
Orbotech	.45	+0.5
Orckit	.15	+0.125
Qshap Technologies	.8.25	+0.0625
Paradigm Geophys	.4.875	0
Pharmos	.1.375	+0.0625
Point of Sale	.6.9375	+0.4375
Rada Electronics Ind	.0.96875	+0
Radcom Ltd	.3	+0
RIT Technologies	.1.71875	+0.0625
RSL Communications	.26.875	+0.75
Scitex Corporations	.10	+0.125
Silicom	.1.6875	0
Summit Design	.3.4375	-0.25
Sapiens International	.8.625	+0.375
Scanvec	.2.4375	+0
Tadiran Telecomm	.19.875	+1.375
Taro Pharmaceuticals Ind	.4.8375	-0.4375
Tat Technologies	.1.40625	-0.09375
Technomatix Technologies	.13.625	+0.5625
Teva	.43.25	+1.125
Top Image Systems	.4.25	-0.25
Top Image Systems Warrant	.0.4375	0
Tower Semiconductor	.6.875	+0.125
TTI Team Telecom Intl Ltd	.8	+0.4375
TVG Technologies	.0.09375	+0
TVG Tech A	.0.125	+0
TVG Tech B	.0.1875	+0
TVG Tech C	.0.15625	+0
Vocaltec	.12.125	+0.5625
Wiz Tec Solutions	.17.125	+1.625
Zoran Corporation	.17	-0.625

NYSE

Amdocs	.25	+0.5625
Blue Square	.11.9375	+0.0625
D.S.P. Comsunications	.16	-0.875
Elscint	.13.25	+0.1875
First Israel Fund	.11.6875	+0.3125
PEC Israel Economic Corp	.28.8125	+0
Koor	.19.25	+0.625
Simula Inc	.5.9375	-0.375
Super-Sol Ltd	.12.5625	+0.0625
Teelbam	.36	0
Tefron Ltd	.8.375	+0.125

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 22-FEB-99)

LONDON

Batm Advanced	.201	+0
Dmatek Ltd	.29	+0
Pilat	.13.5	+0

S.E.A. Multimedia
SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 22-FEB-99)

NEW YORK



Alcoa	.51.0625	+0.3125
AMP Inc	.53.75	+0.0625
AMR Corp	.56.4375	+2.6875
ASA	.16.0625	-0.25
Abbott Labs	.47.25	+1.25
Advanced Micro	.19.3125	+1.6875
Aetna Life	.78.5625	+1.5625
Affiliated Publ	.18	0
Allac	.47.625	-1.375
Air Prods	.33.9375	+0.75
Alberto-Culv B	.25.5	+0.3125
Albertson's	.55.3125	+0.3125
Alcan Aluminum	.29.6875	-0.0625
Allied Signal	.43.125	+0.75
Alcoa	.83.1875	+0.1875
Amazon	.108.5	+4.625
Amerada Hess	.46.4375	-0.125
Amer Brands	.26.875	-0.0625
Amer El Power	.43.25	+0.9375
Amer Express	.108.5	+5.3125
Amer Gen Corp	.76	+4.25
Amer Greeting	.35.25	+0.625
Amer Home Pr	.58.75	+0.4375
Amer Int'l	.119.188	+3.5625
Amer Natl Ins	.76	-0.25
Amer Power Conv	.38.375	+0.3125
Amer Stores	.32.125	+0.0625
Amer T & T	.66.5625	+0.6125
Amer West Hldg	.21.375	-1.375
Ameritech	.66.125	+2.0625
Ametek Inc	.17.3125	+0.3125
Amgen	.126.625	+2.5
Amoco		
Analog Devices	.29.5	+0.5
Andrew Corp	.15.875	+0
Anheuser-Busch	.73.5	+2.75
Aon Corp	.59.875	+1.6875
Apple Computer	.58.4375	+1.25
Applied Magnetics	.4.125	-0.0625
Applied Materials	.68.1875	-0.5
Archer Daniels	.16	+0
Armco	.4.75	-0.1875
Armstrong World	.50.9375	+0.3125
Asarco	.13.875	+0.5625
Ascend	.79.6875	+2.6875
Ashland Coal	.10.25	+0
Ashland Oil	.44	-0.6875
Atlantic Energy	.21.3125	+0
Atlantic Richfld	.56.8125	-0.25
Auto Data Pro	.41.9375	+1.5625
Autodesk	.40.9375	-0.9375
Avery Dennison	.54.625	+2.1875
Avnet Inc	.43.75	+0.1875
Avon Products	.43.75	+0.6875
Baimco Corp	.5.6875	-0.0625
Baker Hughes	.17.875	+0
Ball Corp	.41.5625	+0.25
Baltimore Gas	.26.625	+0.25
Banc One Corp	.54.25	+2.9375
Bandag	.33.875	+0.5625
BankAmerica	.65.625	+0.6875
Bank of Boston	.40	+1.375
Bank of New Yk	.38.875	+1.125
Bankers Trst NY	.88.9375	+1
Barnes & Noble	.35.75	+0.6875
Battle Mountain Gld	.3.5	+0.0625
Bausch & Lomb	.59.75	+1.5625
Baxter Intl	.69.4375	+2.125
Becton Dickinson	.33.9375	+0.6875
Bed Bath & Bynd	.31.9375	+1.1875
Bell Atlantic	.80.0625	+2.625
Bell Industries	.11.125	+0.0625
BellSouth	.48	+2.6875
HA Belo Corp	.17	+0.125
Beneficial Corp	.19.75	0
Bethlehem Steel	.8	-0.0625
Beverly Entprs	.5.4375	+0.1875
Biomet	.38.1875	+2.0625
Black & Decker	.48.5625	+1.3125
Boeing	.36.25	+0.5625
Boise Cascade	.29.5	+0.3125
Books a Million	.11.25	+0
Borden Inc	.22.125	+0.5
Bowater Inc	.40	+0.5625
Briggs & Strtn	.51.0625	+0.375
Bristl Myer Sqb	.129	-3.125
Brit Airwa ADR	.75	+2.5
Brit Steel ADR	.19.5625	+0
Brit Telecom	.174.875	-2
Brown Group	.15.5	+0
Brown & Sharpe	.7.4375	-0.0625
Browning Ferris	.30.4375	+0.25
Brunswick	.21.8125	+0.5625
Burlington Nthn	.34.6875	+1.125
Burlington Res	.32.6875	+0.25
CBS Inc	.37.5625	+0.4375
CMS Energy Corp	.42.3125	+0.8125
CSX Corporation	.40.8125	+0.6875
Cabot Corp	.25.75	+1.0625
Campbell Soup	.42.5	+0.875
Canadian Pac	.19.0625	+0
Capital Cs ABC	.52.6875	-0.125
Capstead	.5	-0.0625
Carpenatrac Corp	.19.75	-0.3125
Carnival Corp	.47.6875	+1.8125
Carolina Pwr Lt	.40.5625	+0.4375
Carpenter Tech	.26.1875	-0.6875
Caterpillar	.46.25	+1.1875
Centex Corp	.39.1875	+0
Central & SW	.25.6875	+0.4375
Ceridian	.74	+0.125
Champion Intl	.35.6875	+1.6875
Chevy Shoppes	.3.625	+0
Chase Manhattan	.61	+4.3375
Chevron Corp	.77.9375	+1
Chiquita Brands	.8.75	-0.125
Chrysler Corp	.48.0625	+2.3125
Chubb Corp	.62	+0.25
Cinco	.102.063	+4.8375
Circuit City	.35.4375	+1.0625
Clorox	.124.25	+1.25
Coastal Corp	.31.5	-0.0625
Coca Cola	.64.4375	-1.3125
Coca Cola Ent	.32	-0.75
Colgate Palmolv	.88.0625	+2.3125
Comcast Corp A	.76.0625	+6.125
Compaq	.42.75	+1.625
Compute Ass Int	.42.9375	+0.9375
Computer Sc	.70	+1.1875
Conagra	.31.25	+0
Cons Edison	.46.25	+0.3125
Cons Freightways	.41.5	-0.1875
Cons Nat Gas	.55.1875	-1.0625
Cooper Inds	.44.1875	+0.6875
Coors (Adolph)	.56.125	+0.25
Corning Inc	.80.3125	+2.25
Crane	.27.3125	+1.5875
Crompton Knowles	.17.8125	+0.375
Crown Cork Seal	.28.375	+0.25
Cummins Engine	.42.4375	+1.4375
Curtiss-Wright	.58	+0
Cyprus Amaxcon	.9.75	+0.25
Cyprus Mineral	.10.9375	+0.1875
Cytec Indust.	.28	+0.1875
Daimlerchrysler	.95.9375	+2
DQE	.39	+0.3125
Dallas Semi	.37.1875	+1.125
Dana Corp.	.39.375	-0.1875
Data General	.15.375	-0.0625
Dayton Hudson	.63.375	+2.1875
De Beers	.16.4375	+0.125
Deere	.33.5	+0.4375
Dell Computers	.84.875	+4.75
Delta Air Lines	.56	+2.9375
Deluxe Corp	.34.8125	+0.75
Detroit Edison	.40.25	+0.125
Dial Corp Del	.29.6	+0.1875
Diebold Inc	.30.75	+0.75
Dillard Dep St	.26.75	+0.625
Disney (Walt)	.34.875	+0.75
Dominion Res	.40	-2.25
Donnelley (RR)	.33.875	-0.125
Dover Corp	.35.4375	+1.25
Dow Chemicals	.97.1875	+0.5625
Dow Jones	.47.25	+1
Duke Power	.59	-0.25
Dun & Bradst	.33.3125	+1.375
Du Pont	.53.8125	+1.0625
E G & G Corp	.27.5625	-0.125
Eastern Ents	.38.5625	+0.4375
Eastman Kodak	.68.4375	+2.25
Eaton Corp	.85.1875	+0
Eaghaust Corn	.17.375	+0
Emerson Elec	.80	+2.5
Engelhard Corp	.18.1875	-0.125
Enron Corp	.54	+1.5
Entergy Corp	.29.5	-0.125
Enzo Biochem	.11.625	-0.25
Equitax Inc	.38.375	+1.25
Ericsson	.27.9375	+1.375
Ethyl Corp	.5.1875	-0.0625
Exide Corp	.16.375	+0.25
Exxon	.68.1875	-0.3125
FMC Corp	.53.875	+0.0625
FPL Group	.53.5625	+1.25
Fedders Corp	.5.75	-0.0625
Federal Expres	.90.125	+4
Federal Mogul	.50.75	+0.8125
First Nat Mktg	.73.125	+0.875
First Union	.54.3125	+2
Fruit of the Loom	.13	-0.75
Fst Union Rity	.4.375	+0.0625
Fleet Fint Grp	.44.5625	+2.125
Fluor Daniel	.43.1875	+0.8125
Flowers Cos Ok	.8.0625	+0.3125
Florida Prog	.41.25	+0.0625
Fluor Corp	.34.8125	-0.25
Food Lion Inc	.10.1875	+0
Ford Motor	.60.4375	+1.625
Fortune Brands	.31.5	+1.5
Foster Wheeler	.12.625	+0.4375
Furniture Brands	.22.25	-0.75
Gateway 2000	.79.1875	+6.3125
GATX Corp	.35.5625	+0.3125
GTE Corp	.67.375	+2.375
Gannett	.67.375	+1.8125
Gap Inc Del	.65.875	+3.5
Gencorp	.19.875	+0
Gen Am Invest	.31	+0.375
Gen Dynamics	.61.5	+1.125
Gen Electric	.103.75	+3.375
Gen Mills	.62.5	+0.125
Gen Motors	.67.5	+2.0625
Gen Motors H	.47.5	-0.5
Gen Public Util	.41.9375	+0.1875
Gen Reinsurance		
Gen DataComm	.2.375	-0.25
Genuine Parts	.31.4375	+0.8125
Georgia Pac	.70.3125	+2.8125
Germany Fund	.13.6875	+0.0625
Gillette	.55.3125	+1
Glaxo ADR	.57	+2.6875
Golden W Finl	.96.375	+1.375
Goodrich (BF)	.35	+2
Goodyear Tire	.48.9375	+0.5625
Grace (W.R.)	.13.875	+0.6875
Grainger (WW)	.44.8125	+1.0625
Grt Atl Pac Tea	.31.1875	+0.375
Grt Central Mine	.2.6875	+0
Gulf Canada Res	.2.3125	-0.0625
Halliburton	.28.9375	+0.0625
Hanna (MA)	.11.125	+0.1875
Harcourt	.48.125	+0.625
Harley Davidson	.55.8125	+1
Harnischfeger	.5	+0
Harrah's Ent	.18.5625	+0.75
Harris Corp	.34	-0.5625
Hasbro Corp	.28	-0.25
Hartmax	.4.5625	+0.0625
Hasbro	.38	+1.125
HBO & Co		
Health Care Ppt	.27.8125	+0.6875
Hecla Mining	.3.5	-0.125
Heinz (HJ)	.56.125	+0.4375
Helix Technol	.23.3125	-0.3125
Hercules	.18.5625	-0.1875
Hershey Foods	.63.75	+1
Hewlett Packard	.73.875	+6.5625
Hilton Hotels	.16.5625	+0.625
Hitachi Ltd	.3.25	+0.09375
Hollinger	.12	+0
Home Depot	.81.5	+1
Homestake	.9.6875	-0.0625
Honeywell	.72.25	+0.4375
Hormel (Geo)	.37.625	+0.6875
Household Intl	.42.1875	+0.3125
Houston Inds		
Humana	.17.

هكذا عن الأعلى

Guess who's buying USA Inc?

Their ancestors may have lost Manhattan, but the Dutch are now close to surpassing the Japanese as the second-largest foreign investors in the US, after the British

By GLENN HALL

AMSTERDAM – Forget about Japan Inc. buying up America: The Dutch are the ones to watch.

The Netherlands outspent Japan the last three years and is close to toppling Japan as the second-largest foreign investor after the UK. All it would take is a few more takeovers like Aegon NV's $10.8 billion purchase of Transamerica Corp. announced yesterday, analysts said.

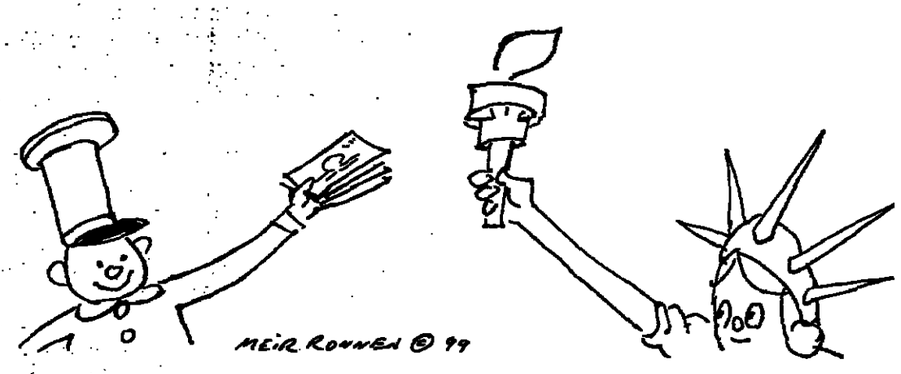
The Dutch, who once owned Manhattan, now own such US mainstays as Good Humor ice cream, Norelco shavers, Shell Oil Co. and the Lexis-Nexis database. The world's largest market has proven irresistible to companies from the Netherlands, which is home to fewer people than New York state. Many Dutch companies can't boost profits without foreign acquisitions.

"It's often necessary for growth," said Marco van Son, a fund manager at SNS Asset Management, which oversees 4 billion guilders ($2b.) in equities. "In a small country like the Netherlands, the big multinationals can't depend solely on their home market. They must look across the border."

Aegon turned to the US for its biggest acquisition because Europe is too fragmented, prices are too high and opportunities too limited, said Chief Executive Kees Storm.

"We have focused on the United States because that's where it was possible," Storm said in an interview yesterday.

Analysts expect more billion-dollar-plus acquisitions in the US this year by Dutch companies such as Unilever, the world's largest maker of household products; Royal Philips Electronics NV, Europe's biggest consumer-electronics company; ABN Amro Holding NV, Europe's sixth-biggest bank; and Royal Ahold NV, the world's sixth-biggest supermarket owner.



As the Dutch advance in the US, the Japanese are retreating as the Asian nation suffers its worst recession in five decades. That could make it easier for the Dutch to grab the No. 2 spot.

"There is a chance, definitely," said Ate Kahrel, head of institutional sales at Effectenbank Stroeve in Amsterdam.

"There is a tendency by Japanese to deconsolidate in the US because they have to sort out their problems at home.

The Dutch invested $9.6b. in the first three quarters of 1998, according to the US Bureau of Economic Analysis. That beat the $7.07b. invested by the Japanese, but was less than the $13.1b. invested by the British.

In 1997, the Dutch invested $10.3b. in the US, more than the UK's $8.6b. and Japan's $9.4b. The Netherlands also outspent the UK and Japan in 1996. Final 1998 figures are to be released next month.

The UK position, though, is likely secure after Vodafone Group Plc's agreement in January to buy AirTouch Communications Inc. for about $68b. and British Petroleum Co.'s $61.7b. purchase of Amoco in 1998.

Together with investments from previous years, the running total of US investment from the Netherlands was $94.5b. as of last September, compared to $130b. for Japan and $142.6b. for Britain. Germany came fourth with $77.9b. invested in the US as of September 1998.

Dutch companies spent a record $38.7b. last year, nearly twice the 1997 level, buying 358 foreign companies, according to research by KPMG.

COMPANIES from the Netherlands have been turning to America ever since Henry Hudson's explorations on behalf of the Dutch East India Co. in 1609.

In their first and most-famous acquisition, the Dutch traded 60 guilders worth of clothing, muskets, pans and trinkets in 1626 for what is now Manhattan. The goal then was the same as now: to reap profits in the New World.

The buying spree during the past three years shows that the Dutch aren't afraid of the billion-dollar price tags many US companies command.

Notable purchases in 1998 included Royal Ahold NV's $2.7b. takeover of Giant Food Inc. and VNU NV's $2.1b. acquisition of ITT Corp.'s phone book unit.

A year earlier, Dutch insurance companies led the advance in the US ING Groep NV spent a combined $3.2b. for a Midwestern life insurer and a New York brokerage, while Aegon paid $4b. for the insurance arm of Providian Corp.

With Providian and Transamerica in its lineup, Aegon will pick up about half its sales and two thirds of its profit in the US. Ahold also generates more than half of its sales in the US after its purchase of Giant Food last year. Unilever and Philips earn about 20 percent of sales from the US.

Analysts say Philips may be the leading candidate to make a big acquisition, using the $6b. in cash it has from the sale of PolyGram NV to Seagram's Co. The company has said it wants to expand in consumer electronics, semiconductors, domestic appliances, electrical components, business electronics, medical systems and lighting.

"We are very mindful of the fact that we do have a lot of money," Philips Chief Financial Officer Jan Hommen said last week, adding that the funds will be used "definitely for acquisitions."

Similarly, analysts said Unilever is likely to expand through US acquisitions. It has about $5b. in cash following the sale of its specialty chemicals unit to the UK's Imperial Chemical Industries Plc in 1997.

And after becoming the No. 5 US supermarket operator with the purchase of Giant, Ahold is looking to expand westward from its East Coast stronghold. Chief Financial Officer Michael Meurs told Bloomberg in September his company has enough money to make another billion-dollar purchase without selling new shares.

Other Dutch holdings in the US include *Billboard* magazine (owned by VNU), Stop & Shop supermarkets (owned by Ahold), Vaseline (owned by Unilever) and Shell Oil (owned by Royal Dutch/Shell). ABN Amro Holding NV has the biggest foreign-owned banking business in the US. There are nearly 300 Dutch companies doing business in the US with about 840 US subsidiaries, according to the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce in the US. The 25 largest Dutch companies in the US employ more than 250,000 people there, the chamber estimates.

The Dutch, though, tend to keep a low profile and have shied away from political involvement in what many companies from the Netherlands call their second home market. The 25 biggest Dutch companies spent just $2 million to lobby US politicians and regulators in 1997, according to US congressional records. By comparison, a US company such as Procter & Gamble Co. spent about $3m. lobbying US officials in 1997.

It's more important to Dutch companies to build name recognition for their products than for themselves, said Arjan Braanskamp, of the New York branch of the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce in the US.

(Bloomberg)

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By Greer Fay Cashman

23.2 Internet World '99, the three-day seminar and exhibition showcasing the latest in Internet developments, opens today at 11 a.m. at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. Among the many attractions are special Internet classes.

23.2 The fourth joint symposium of the Hebrew University's Institute of Chemistry and the Technical University of Berlin on **Frontiers in Chemistry and Material Science** is being held on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University. Thirty-two scientific papers are being presented by researchers from the two universities. Chairman of the symposium is Professor Itamar Willner of the Hebrew University, and Professor Dr. Helmut Schwarz of the Technical University of Berlin is co-chairman. TUB president, Professor Dr. Hans-Jurgen Ewers, heads his institution's delegation to the symposium.

23.2 The second Lower Saxony-Israel Symposium in the Life Sciences is being held at the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus. This is the first time the symposium is in Jerusalem; the previous session was held in Gottingen, Germany. More than 40 participants are here from Germany, including a delegation from the state of Lower Saxony led by Minister of Science Thomas Oppermann. The conference will focus on scientific research projects being funded by the government of Lower Saxony. It was organized by Professor Jacob Hochman of the Department of Cell and Animal Biology at the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences of the Hebrew University, together with Professor Dr. H. Wellhober of the University of Hannover.

23.2 Competition is the name of the game on the local communications scene and if any company will be feeling the pinch it's Bezeq, which is encountering increasing rivalry in its cable television, Internet and international telephone services. Present and former Bezeq employees dominate the program for the annual **Communications Conference**, which opens at 9 a.m. at the Tel Aviv Hilton, but other front-line runners in the field are also well represented. For full details and registration, call (03) 563-2184.

25.2 International finance experts from Israel, Europe and the US will advise Israeli hi-tech companies on **How to Float Shares on American and European Stock Exchanges**. The all-day conference, co-sponsored by Globes Initiative and Ernst & Young, will be held at the new Intercontinental Hotel on Kaufman Street, Tel Aviv. For detailed information, call (03) 697-9606.

25.2 Neil Fligstein of the University of California poses the question: **Is Globalization the Cause of the Crises of Welfare States?** at his 7 p.m. lecture in room 527 of Tel Aviv University's Naftali Building.

25.2 The launch of the Israel Pen Lovers Club will take place at the Tel Aviv Hilton. Some 100 Israeli pen collectors, whose collections are estimated to be worth in the realm of $3 million, will flock to the event. According to IPLC President Shimon Dana, pen collecting is a worthwhile investment. For instance, a Parker pen circa 1906, which 20 years ago fetched around $200, is today valued at $60,000. Collectors attending the launch will display some of their prize possessions.

Surgutneftegaz: Russia's unlikely financial survivor

MOSCOW – OAO Surgutneftegaz, Russia's third-largest oil producer, stands out as a rare survivor in the rubble of the once-thriving Russian stock market.

Surgut has risen more than 400 percent since October, compared with a 68% increase in the benchmark Russian Trading System index. Even so, analysts say the company still is undervalued by the market and the stock probably will continue to gain.

The company is increasing oil output as total Russian production slumps. Virtually free of foreign debt, Surgut, which exports about 40% of crude oil production, is benefiting from lower production costs after the ruble's 70% slide since August and is reinvesting its profits in production, putting it at the top of analysts' recommendation lists.

"It's one of the best-managed companies in Russia," said Jack Arnoff, a fund manager at Pictet Asset Management in London, with more than $20 million invested in Russia, who's accumulating Surgut.

"If any company in Russia has the chance to survive, it's the one," Surgut shares have risen to 9.45 cents from a 52-week low of 1.75 cents on Oct. 5.

Even at these prices, Surgut is undervalued, according to its price per barrel of reserves, said Stephen O'Sullivan, head of research at Moscow-based United Financial Group.

Surgutneftegaz has about 8.2 billion barrels of oil in reserves, just above half the reserves of BP Amoco Plc and three times as much as Conoco Inc. At the present market capitalization of Surgutneftegaz, its reserves are valued at 28 cents per barrel – as opposed to $9.24 a barrel of BP Amoco's oil or $1.60 a barrel of Conoco's oil.

It's also undervalued based on its price-to-earnings ratios.

Surgut's P/E adjusted to reflect the social benefits it must pay to workers is 12.6 based on 1998 earnings, while BP Amoco's, for example, was 24.8 on Feb. 1, according to United Financial Group in Moscow.

Surgut, based in the Khanty-Mansiysk region of Western Siberia, plans to pump 1.5% more crude oil this year, even as total Russian output is expected to fall by 6%.

"Surgut is in a much better position than any other Russian oil company," said James Henderson, oil and gas analyst at Moscow brokerage MFK Renaissance. "In insecure times, it's a secure investment."

The company's board set a production target of 35.7 million metric tons (260.6 million barrels) of crude oil this year, up from 35.2 tons in 1998.

Surgutneftegaz is able to raise output through exploration and investment because of its relatively low level of foreign debt. While other Russian oil producers have had to pledge up to 100% of their exports against foreign currency loans, only 15% of Surgutneftegaz's exports are pledged, according to Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

"The company is (almost) debt free, and that's key in this situation in Russia," said Dan Lubash, an analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co. in London, which has an "accumulate" recommendation for Surgut.

COMPANY FOCUS

"It managed to increase production even in '98 by channeling significant capital expenditure into the company. Surgut is my first Russian stock pick."

IN 1998, Russian oil output declined 0.9%, while Surgutneftegaz boosted production by 3.8%.

The company exports about 40% of its crude oil output, compared with the Russian industry average of one-third of output.

Exports are more profitable for Russian oil producers after the drop in the ruble since August, which has more than offset the decline in world oil prices. Surgutneftegaz and other Russian producers pay their main costs in rubles while earning dollars from exports.

The price of Brent crude oil has fallen almost 17% in London since the beginning of August, while the ruble has fallen 73% since then.

The company expects to add as much as 30 million tons of oil to its present oil reserves of 1.12 billion tons this year.

Russia's largest oil producer, OAO Lukoil Holding, is available at roughly the same price per barrel of reserves as Surgut. Lukoil and Surgutneftegaz are Russia's only two oil companies that reported increases in output during 1998. Lukoil's production rose by 3%, slightly less than Surgutneftegaz's, which was 3.8% higher.

Lukoil, however, is involved in projects throughout Russia as well as in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and off the Russian shore in the Caspian Sea, forcing it to raise financing internationally, according to a report by United Financial Group. More than half of Lukoil's crude oil exports are pledged against Western loans.

One concern for investors buying Surgutneftegaz shares may be that they are buying a stake in an oil-producing subsidiary rather than in the mother company, OAO Surgut Holding, and might be subject to unfair treatment by the holding company's owners.

Surgut Holding owns 46.1% of Surgutneftegaz and is controlled by the oil company's management. Shares of the holding company also are traded, but attract much less interest.

"The subsidiary is much more liquid," O'Sullivan said. "As always in Russia, there's a level of risk of being treated unfairly, but this level is not really high." Surgut said it doesn't plan to merge the subsidiary's shares with the parent company's.

"We have never said we had definitive plans to do that at all," said Yuri Vershinnikkov, head of strategic planning at Surgutneftegaz Holding. "And certainly not now – the market is still low and it's not worth it."

Buying any Russian stock still is a high-risk investment, analysts said. The benchmark RTS index was the world's worst performer last year after being the world's best in 1996 and 1997.

Trading on the primary exchange, the Russian Trading System, fell to a trickle of less than $1 million at the beginning of this year, compared with a daily average trading volume of about $80m. at the beginning of 1998.

A recent rally which boosted daily volumes to about $6m., and pushed up the index 11% so far this year, has been prompted by expectations that a government plan to let holders of Russia's defaulted debt invest in equities will boost demand for stocks.

Some analysts say the rally will be short-lived as investors quickly sell stock purchased with debt restructuring proceeds because it's one of the only ways they can take their proceeds out of the country.

(Bloomberg)

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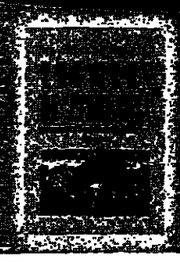


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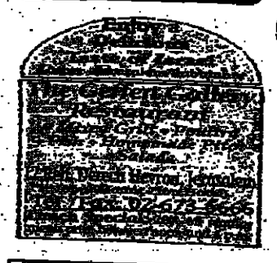
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N. Irish FA to stamp out sectarian chanting

BELFAST (AP) – Northern Ireland's Football Association has launched a campaign to stamp out sectarian chanting at its home games in a bid to get more Catholics to watch the team play at Windsor Park.

Anti-Catholic chanting has blamed Northern Irish soccer during the 30 years of political turmoil and violence in the province and Catholic fans are staying away.

The move follows a poll which showed that only 20 percent of Catholics would watch Northern Ireland play if they qualified again for the World Cup.

"Clearly the singing of Unionist songs is a deterrent to non-Unionists," said David Bowen, secretary general of the Northern Irish FA.

"We need a long term educational policy to get the 90 percent who do nothing wrong to outcast the others.

"Once the legislation that applies in the mainland comes into force in Northern Ireland, the police and stewards will have the power to eject people singing sectarian songs and we will urge them to use it," Bowen said.

"I would love to see the day when thousands of Catholics and Protestants filled Windsor Park for Northern Ireland matches.

When people stop throwing stones and shouting on the streets it will stop in the football grounds."

Kafelnikov homes in on Sampras's top spot

LONDON (Reuters) – Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov has the world tennis No. 1 spot in his sights as he begins his defense of the $815,000 London Indoor title today.

The top seed and world No. 2 will end Pete Sampras's 260 weeks as No. 1 if he reaches the final at this week's ATP Tour event.

A semifinal spot could be enough for Kafelnikov to take over from Sampras if the opponents he beats en route to the last four were highly ranked and carried enough bonus points.

Kafelnikov is just 59 points behind Sampras, who is taking a week off and chasing Ivan Lendl's record 270 weeks at the top.

"I want to be No. 1... and I will do my best in London to get there," said the Russian who was not in the top 10 at the end of 1998.

Kafelnikov, from the Black Sea tourist resort of Sochi, is undoubtedly the man of the moment.

The 25-year-old started the year in grand style winning the Australian Open, the season's first Grand Slam.

On a scorching day in Melbourne Park earlier this month, Kafelnikov systematically took apart Thomas Enqvist for his second Grand Slam after his 1996 French Open title.

Kafelnikov followed up his Australian triumph by winning the World Indoor Tournament in Rotterdam on Sunday, beating Britain's Tim Henman in the final.

"Six months ago if somebody said I would be challenging for No. 1 now I would have said 'no way'," Kafelnikov said after his Dutch victory.

"What has happened this year – the Australian Open and now a big tournament (Rotterdam) is almost unreal."

SPORTS *in brief*

Smashnova playing in Paris tourney

Anna Smashnova will play in the first round of the prestigious $520,000 Open Gaz de France tennis tournament in Paris today.

Smashnova, who entered the tournament as a lucky loser after Mary Pierce withdrew with an injury, will meet France's Amelie Cocheteux, a wildcard entry.

According to the WTA rankings, luck is on Smashnova's side since her ranking, 44, is 30 places higher than Cocheteux.

In Oklahoma City, Hila Rosen (184) lost to Nana Miyagi (119) from Japan in the final round of the qualifying rounds of a $180,000 tournament. The score was 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in Miyagi's favor. *Heather Chait*

Ivanisevic sneaks past Siemerink in London

LONDON (Reuters) – Goran Ivanisevic sneaked past Dutchman Jan Siemerink 6-3 0-6 7-6 with a schizophrenic performance yesterday to move into the second round of the London Indoor tennis tournament.

The seventh seed from Croatia followed sixth seed Thomas Enqvist into the next round. The Swede won his first match in the $815,000 event 6-1 6-3 against Switzerland's Marc Rosset.

German qualifer David Prinosil beat world No. 47 Romanian Andrei Pavel 7-6 6-3, while Morocco's Hicham Arazi breezed past the Czech Republic's Bohdan Ulihrach 7-5 6-4 in 70 minutes.

Lomu sidelined by knee injury

WELLINGTON (Reuters) – New Zealand's rugby union superstar Jonah Lomu has been felled by a knee injury and will miss at least the opening three weeks of the Super 12 tournament.

"He'll be back on the field – hopefully – in the next three, four, five weeks," Lomu's manager Phil Kingsley Jones told Reuters.

Lomu had been a keen starter for the opening Super 12 match in Christchurch on Friday night between his new team The Chiefs and the Canterbury Crusaders before the weekend mishap.

He suffered a partial medial ligament tear in his right knee during The Chiefs' warm-up game against the Otago Highlanders in Invercargill on Saturday night and All Black doctor John Mayhew estimated his recovery time at three weeks, local media reported.

Netanya bowlers lead Wingate Fives

By NORMAN SPIRO

Netanya's men's lawn bowls team took over the top log position after the third round in the Wingate Fives at the weekend by virtue of their 7-1 win over Kiryat Ono. They were also aided by a 4-4 result between previous leaders Haifa and Ramat Gan.

Netanya's Harry Katz beat Moshe Ayoun (Kiryat Ono) 25-15 to remain solely unbeaten in the singles. Ari Ben-Dor (Haifa) beat Micha Farkash (Ramat Gan) 25-8, Colin Silberstein (Ra'anana) won 25-12 against Motti Dreyfus (Jerusalem) and Herzl Dunsky (Ramat Hasharon) won 25-19 against Assaf Iron (Savyon).

In the women's singles, Ramat Gan's Tami Kamzel kept an unbeaten record with a 25-23 win over Miriam Pappenheimer (Haifa) after trailing 11-18. Merle Swerdlow (Ra'anana) is also unbeaten with a 25-7 win against Ruthie Gilor (Kiryat Ono) and Chaya Prager (Savyon) beat Avika Nachmias (Netanya) 25-16.

Pairs: Savyon 30, Netanya 9; Ramat Hasharon 23, Kiryat Ono 17; Ramat Gan 23, Haifa 20.

Trips: Savyon 13, Netanya 21; Ramat Hasharon 18, Kiryat Ono 12; Ramat Gan 25, Haifa 17.

Fours: Savyon 25, Netanya 17; Ra'anana 22, Kiryat Ono 15.

Overall standings after three rounds: Ramat Gan 18, Ra'anana 16, Savyon 12, Kiryat Ono and Netanya 6, Ramat Hasharon 4, Haifa 2.

Men's pairs: Haifa 20, Ramat Gan 26; Jerusalem 24, Ra'anana 19; Ramat Hasharon 11, Savyon 26; Kiryat Ono 23, Netanya 23. (Savyon are unbeaten).

Men's trips: Haifa 17, Ramat Gan 13; Kiryat Ono 12, Netanya 15; Jerusalem 18, Ra'anana 19; Ramat Hasharon 18, Savyon 27 (Haifa are unbeaten).

Men's fours: Haifa 18, Ramat Gan 25; Kiryat Ono 15, Netanya 19; Jerusalem 14, Ra'anana 30; Ramat Hasharon 20, Savyon 15. (Netanya are unbeaten).

Men's log: From a maximum of 24 points Netanya lead with 19 followed by Haifa 18, Ramat Gan 16, Ra'anana 14, Savyon 12, Ramat Hasharon 8, Jerusalem 6 and Kiryat Ono 3.

Crowd trouble sparks Eden Gardens doubts

CALCUTTA (Reuters) – Calcutta's Eden Gardens, one of the largest cricket grounds in the world, faces an uncertain future after an unruly crowd forced India and Pakistan to complete a Test match in front of empty stands last week.

Police and media outnumbered spectators on Saturday as Pakistan beat India by 46 runs on the fifth and final day.

Trouble on the last two days has fuelled speculation that Eden Gardens could be banned from Test cricket for some time.

"Calcutta may lose Test-center status for two years," an unattributed report in the *Statesman* daily said on Sunday.

"Save cricket, ban Calcutta. The city is unfit for the game," the newspaper said in an editorial comment.

Angry spectators disrupted play for 46 minutes on Friday when they threw water bottles and oranges at Pakistani fielders after India's top batsman Sachin Tendulkar was unlucky to be run out as he collided with a fielder before reaching the crease.

On Saturday, spectators armed with stones and bricks, disrupted play for almost three hours when India were on the verge of defeat after Pakistan took three quick wickets.

Play resumed only after police evicted the vast majority of the 90,000-strong crowd.

Eden Gardens also fell into ignominy in 1996 when spectators threw missiles as Sri Lanka were on the verge of victory in a World Cup semifinal. The match was abandoned and then conceded by India.

A report in the *Asian Age* said Pakistan's captain Wasim Akram wanted a two-year ban on international cricket at Eden Gardens.

"He (Akram) felt that perhaps a two-year ban on holding international matches at the venue would be in order to teach trouble-makers a lesson," the paper said.

Officials of the Cricket Association of Bengal said they were disappointed by the crowd's behavior.

"We are very shocked. Before holding any match, we should think carefully now," said Debdas Banerjee, joint secretary of the Cricket Association of Bengal.

However, he said there was no formal move to impose a ban.

"It's all gossip. We have not yet received any opposition to (holding) Test matches," he said.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, who heads both the Cricket Association of Bengal and is the president of the International Cricket Council, was not immediately available for comment.

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Shaq blasts NBA officiating

'I've got to be a wild man to get the calls'

SEATTLE – There was no Sunday silence, not in the Los Angeles Laker locker room, not after Shaquille O'Neal started rumbling, raging and making like a 7-foot-1 interview-session Vesuvius.

Watch out below! There may not be hell to pay for O'Neal's expletive-filled eruption directed at the referees after the Lakers' 92-89 loss to the Seattle SuperSonics, but there sure might be some fines dished out.

"I thought (the referees) did an awful job tonight," said O'Neal, who scored 27 points but only made 11 of 24 shots – many of them going awry after contact with a Seattle defender. "I felt like they cheated tonight. And you can quote me on that.

"And if David (Stern, the NBA commissioner) and them want to fine me, try to control people with money, they can take double and take triple, but you can't control me with no money ... I've been taking the same abuse for seven years. Whatever they want to fine me, I don't care. Fine me."

O'Neal, who made 57.1 percent of his shot attempts in the Lakers' first nine games, was bumped, leaned on and prodded at by the Seattle defenders, most noticeably center Olden Polynice, who deflected at least one O'Neal thunder-dunk attempt, scored 15 points of his own and grabbed 17 rebounds.

O'Neal, who went to the free-throw line only nine times, and made five, repeated what he has said in the past after other foul performances: He has to take the matter into his own hands by throwing people around on the offensive end.

"I'm the only guy that they say they're going to hack-a-Shaq, it's all in the papers, it's all on TV. I still don't get the calls," O'Neal said. "I know what I've got to do.

"I've got to start acting crazy to get some respect in this sorry-ass league. I'm going to go crazy. I've got to be a wild man to get the calls."

A little later, with a little bit of a smile but still enough energy to keep his focus on the lack of foul calls, O'Neal made a wry reference to his role in helping end the labor dispute.

"I end the lockout for David Stern and the guys," O'Neal said, "and this is how they treat me?"

The chatty Polynice, whose six offensive rebounds keyed the SuperSonics' key statistic – 20 second-chance points, while the Lakers had only 10 – shrugged and smiled when O'Neal's charges were repeated to him.

"You know what? People are getting spoiled, man," said Polynice, who worked out with O'Neal and several other Lakers for about 10 days during the voluntary workouts before training camp.

"They're just so used to getting calls all the time. When it goes against them, they just don't know how to act. ... If anything, these guys they get all the calls. Superstars get everything. I'm just a lowly individual making the minimum, trying to do my job."

The O'Neal-Polynice theatrics were not only amusing, they were pivotal in this game.

Without O'Neal providing a steady flow of offense, the Lakers bogged down – he and Kobe Bryant combined to shoot 44 times (more than half of the team total) and make only 19.

(Los Angeles Times)

Wells ready to report to Blue Jays

DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP) – There's no telling how long David Wells will stick around once he reports to the Toronto Blue Jays.

Wells took a weekend break from baseball's spring training, having left the New York Yankees' camp in tears after they traded him in a three-player package for Roger Clemens.

Wells does not seem thrilled at the prospect of pitching for his old team, and already a couple of clubs – the New York Mets and Cleveland Indians – appear eager to provide him a new home.

"We did talk to the Blue Jays the day of the trade and (assistant general manager) Omar Minaya spoke with them the second day," Mets GM Steve Phillips said Sunday at Port St. Lucie, Florida.

"But right now he's part of their staff and they're not trading him," Phillips said.

Phillips said he understood the Indians, still in search of an ace, had also inquired about Wells.

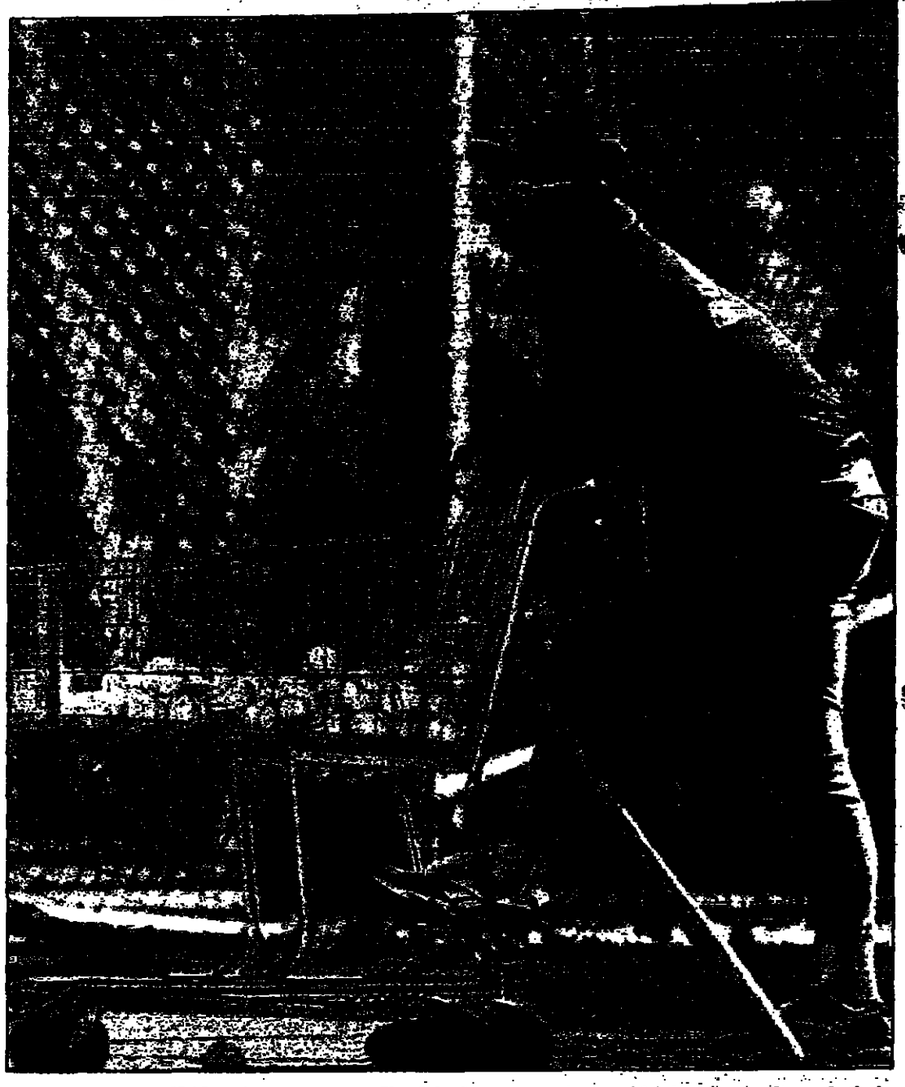
The Mets like their projected rotation of Al Leiter, Rick Reed, Bobby Jones, Masato Yoshii and Hideo Nomo, though that could change.

"The only thing we'd be interested in is if there were a top-line starting pitcher available," Phillips said. "Most trades probably won't happen until the end of spring, after the evaluations."

Wells was 18-4 for the Yankees last year, then went 4-0 in the postseason. The left-hander was traded with reliever Graeme Lloyd and second baseman Homer Bush to the Yankees on Thursday.

"We're getting a real good one in Wells," Toronto catcher Darrin Fletcher said. "If you're going to get a starter, you might as well get one who is his caliber of player. We've been needing a left-handed starter, it has been the team's No. 1 priority. It cost us Roger Clemens, but we got him."

The Oakland Athletics have an ace in Kenny Rogers, though he was the only one absent from workouts on the first day of practice for pitchers and catchers.



BARGAIN HUNTING – Cubs manager Jim Riggleman watches as his charges go through their early workouts. (Reuters)

Former pitcher, congressman 'Vinegar Bend' Mizell dies

HIGH POINT, NC (AP) – Former congressman and major league baseball pitcher Wilmer "Vinegar Bend" Mizell died Sunday while visiting his wife's family in Texas. He was 68.

Family members believed Mizell died from the lingering effects of a heart attack suffered four months ago while attending a high school football game, his son, David Mizell, said.

Mizell served from 1968 to 1974 as the US representative from North Carolina's 5th District.

Mizell acquired his nickname from the place where he grew up, Vinegar Bend, Alabama. From 1952-62, Mizell pitched for the St. Louis Cardinals, Pittsburgh Pirates and New York Mets.

In 1960, Mizell helped the Pirates win the World Series. He posted a 13-5 record with a 3.12 ERA that season with the Cardinals and Pirates.

After he lost his US House seat in 1974, President Gerald Ford appointed the Republican as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

In 1982, Ronald Reagan picked him to become an assistant secretary of agriculture for governmental affairs – the agency's top lobbyist in Congress.

NBA box scores

Boston 18 16 19 21–75
Washington 17 28 23 18–86
BOSTON (75) Walker 2-12 3-6 8, Pierce 6-15 10-14 24, DeClercq 2-4 1-4 5, Bowen 1-4 0-0 3, Barros 2-12 2-2 6, Battie 1-5 0-2 2, Anderson 2-8 2-4 6, Mercer 8-16 1-1 17, Jones 0-2 2-2 2, Riley 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 25-77 21-35 75.
WASHINGTON (86) Howard 4-15 8-10 16, Jackson 0-3 0-0 0, Davis 2-2 0-0 4, Richmond 10-17 5-5 25, Strickland 7-14 6-6 20, Wallace 0-2 1-4 1, Whitney 1-3 0-0 2, Cheaney 3-11 3-6 9, Murray 0-6 0-0 0, Thorpe 3-5 1-2 7, McInnis 1-1 0-0 2, White 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-79 24-33 86.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Boston 62 (Pierce 12), Washington 61 (Strickland 9). Assists–Boston 13 (Anderson 3), Washington 16 (Strickland 9). A–20,674 (20,674).

Chicago 16 19 17 11–63
New York 23 19 17 20–79
CHICAGO (63) Bryant 1-2 1-2 3, Kukoc 6-19 4-4 16, Lang 2-3 0-0 4, Barry 7-14 0-0 19, Harper 3-9 2-2 9, Simpkins 2-10 1-2 5, Jones 0-1 0-0 0, Brown 0-3 0-0 0, David 2-5 1-1 5, Booth 0-0 0-0 0, LaRue 0-2 0-0 0, Carr 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 24-70 9-11 63.
NEW YORK (79) Johnson 3-7 1-2 7, Thomas 7-10 3-3 17, Ewing 4-15 2-2 10, Houston 10-15 2-2 26, Ward 2-3 0-1 4, Dudley 0-0 0-0 0, Childs 3-6 1-2 7, Camby 1-4 0-0 2, Scott 1-4 1-2 4, Brunson 1-2 0-0 2, Wingate 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-66 10-14 79.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Chicago 46 (Simpkins 11), New York 49 (Ewing, Camby 6). Assists–Chicago 16 (Simpkins 4), New York 20 (Ward 6). A–19,763 (19,763).

Detroit 14 16 22 12–64
San Antonio 27 18 24 16–85
DETROIT (64) Hill 5-21 6-6 16, Reid 1-3 3-4 5, Dele 3-10 0-3 6, Stackhouse 3-13 4-4 10, Hunter 2-10 3-4 8, Vaught 0-2 1-2 1, Montross 1-4 1-2 3, J.Williams 3-7 3-6 9, Buechler 1-5 0-0 2, Beck 0-2 0-0 0, O'Bannon 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 21-81 21-31 64.
SAN ANTONIO (85) Elliott 6-7 0-0 14, Duncan 6-15 5-6 17, Robinson 3-7 4-6 10, Elie 6-10 4-4 16, Johnson 1-6 0-0 2, Kersey 3-7 0-0 6, Jackson 4-7 0-0 10, Kerr 2-6 0-0 4, Rose 2-4 1-2 5, Daniels 0-0 1-2 1, Gaze 0-0 0-0 0, King 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-69 15-20 85
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Detroit 58 (J.Williams, Dele 9), San Antonio 53 (Duncan 14). Assists–Detroit 8 (Hill 4), San Antonio 18 (Johnson 5). A–19,495 (20,557).

Vancouver 20 23 20 24–87
Toronto 25 28 15 33–102
VANCOUVER (87) Abdur-Rahim 9-17 5-5 23, Parks 1-1 3-4 5, Massenburg 4-7 0-0 8, Mack 3-9 5-5 13, Bibby 4-10 2-4 11, Reeves 4-10 5-8 13, Smith 1-3 1-2 3, West 2-4 0-0 4, Wheat 1-3 2-2 4, Lopez 0-0 0-0 0, Chilcutt 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 30-66 22-30 87.
TORONTO (102) V.Carter 11-16 2-2 27, Oakley 5-10 2-4 12, Wills 7-17 3-4 17, Christie 5-17 4-4 16, A.Williams 1-4 3-4 5, McGrady 1-5 5-7 7, Stewart 1-1 0-0 2, Slater 1-2 4-6 6, Knight 1-1 0-0 2, Jo Thomas 1-2 1-2 3, Brown 1-9 2-2 5. Totals 35-84 26-35 102.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Vancouver 39 (Abdur-Rahim 6), Toronto 62 (Wills 15). Assists–Vancouver 17 (Reeves 5), Toronto 29 (Oakley 6). A–19,800 (19,800).

Houston 17 26 10 30–83
Orlando 26 20 26 37–109
HOUSTON (83) Pippen 8-16 1-2 19, Harrington 5-10 0-0 12, Olajuwon 9-13 3-4 21, Dickerson 2-6 1-2 5, Mobley 5-7 2-2 13, Bullard 0-7 0-0 0, Miller 2-3 0-0 4, Price 0-2 0-0 0, Drew 1-2 0-0 3, Johnson 3-5 0-0 6, Maloney 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-71 7-10 83.
ORLANDO (109) Outlaw 8-7 1-3 13, Grant 2-5 0-0 4, Austin 5-7 1-1 11, Anderson 8-17 1-3 19, Hardaway 7-13 2-3 16, Armstrong 6-13 6-6 19, Doleac 3-7 0-0 6, Strong 1-3 0-0 2, Harpring 4-6 0-2 8, D.Wilkins 4-5 1-1 9, Overton 0-1 2-2 2. Totals 46-85 14-21 109.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Houston 37 (Olajuwon 10), Orlando 47 (Grant 7). Assists–Houston 17 (Pippen 5), Orlando 32 (Hardaway 11). A–17,248 (17,248).

Sacramento 25 21 18 25–90
Minnesota 29 28 25 20–102
SACRAMENTO (90) Williamson 3-10 2-4 8, Webber 9-21 2-8 20, Divac 1-5 0-2 2, Abdul-Wahad 5-10 3-3 14, Williams 4-9 0-0 10, Funderburke 3-12 4-6 10, Barry 2-4 7-8 11, Maxwell 4-12 2-4 11, Stojakovic 1-5 0-0 2, Dehere 1-3 0-0 2, James 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-91 20-36 90.
MINNESOTA (102) Garnett 10-18 2-3 22, Smith 10-16 10-13 30, Garrett 2-6 0-0 4, Peeler 4-14 3-5 12, Marbury 9-21 5-7 23, Curley 1-1 1-1 3, Sealy 1-10 0-0 2, Mitchell 2-7 0-0 4, Hammonds 0-3 0-0 0, Jackson 1-5 0-0 2, Patterson 0-0 0-0 0, Carr 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-102 21-29 102.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–Sacramento 70 (Funderburke 12), Minnesota 74 (Garnett 19). Assists–Sacramento 24 (Williams 8), Minnesota 30 (Marbury 15). A–16,848 (19,006).

New Jersey 20 21 18 20–79
Indiana 19 22 23 16–80
NEW JERSEY (79) Gill 2-10 4-4 8, Van Horn 6-16 12-17 25, Williams 6-8 5-6 17, Murdock 3-10 4-4 10, Kittles 1-5 2-2 4, Burrell 1-4 0-0 3, Sellsky 0-2 0-0 0, Gatling 6-11 0-0 12, McIlvaine 0-2 0-0 0, Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Cassell 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-70 27-33 79.
INDIANA (80) Mullin 8-13 2-2 21, D.Davis 2-8 2-6 6, Smits 3-13 0-1 6, Miller 4-12 6-8 18, Jackson 1-3 0-0 2, A.Davis 2-6 4-4 8, Perkins 3-6 0-0 8, Rose 1-9 0-0 2, Best 0-1 0-0 0, Croshere 4-6 0-0 9. Totals 28-77 16-21 80.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–New Jersey 51 (Williams 13), Indiana 54 (A.Davis 11). Assists–New Jersey 10 (Murdock 5), Indiana 18 (Jackson 9). A–16,531 (16,530).

L.A. Lakers 20 17 27 25–89
Seattle 25 21 25 21–92
L.A. LAKERS (89) Bryant 8-20 6-6 23, Knight 1-6 1-1 3, O'Neal 11-24 5-8 27, Harper 3-8 0-0 7, Jones 6-14 4-5 17, Blount 0-0 0-0 0, Rooks 0-0 0-0 0, Fisher 0-1 2-2 2, Fox 3-7 0-1 6, Campbell 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 34-83 18-26 89.
SEATTLE (92) Baker 9-18 1-3 19, Schrempf 5-13 5-5 15, Polynice 6-9 3-6 15, Lewis 1-3 0-0 2, Payton 9-22 6-10 26, Hawkins 4-9 2-2 10, Ellis 0-5 0-0 0, Norris 0-0 0-0 0. Williams 2-3 1-2 5. Totals 36-82 18-28 92.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–L.A. Lakers 58 (Bryant 13), Seattle 55 (Polynice 17). Assists–L.A. Lakers 19 (Harper 5), Seattle 20 (Schrempf 8). A–17,072 (17,072).

New Jersey 19 21 18 20–79
Indiana 19 22 23 16–80
NEW JERSEY (79) Gill 2-10 4-4 8, Van Horn 6-16 12-17 25, Williams 6-8 5-6 17, Murdock 3-10 4-4 10, Kittles 1-5 2-2 4, Burrell 1-4 0-0 3, Sellsky 0-2 0-0 0, Gatling 6-11 0-0 12, McIlvaine 0-2 0-0 0, Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Cassell 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-70 27-33 79.
INDIANA (80) Mullin 8-13 2-2 21, D.Davis 2-8 2-6 6, Smits 3-13 0-1 6, Miller 4-12 6-8 18, Jackson 1-3 0-0 2, A.Davis 2-6 4-4 8, Perkins 3-6 0-0 8, Rose 1-9 0-0 2, Best 0-1 0-0 0, Croshere 4-6 0-0 9. Totals 28-77 16-21 80.
Fouled out–None. Rebounds–New Jersey 51 (Williams 13), Indiana 54 (A.Davis 11). Assists–New Jersey 10 (Murdock 5), Indiana 18 (Jackson 9). A–16,531 (16,530).

Detroit 1 1 2 0–4
Buffalo 0 3 1 0–4
First Period–1, Detroit, Kozlov 15 (A.Ward, Lapointe), 12:03. Second Period–2, Detroit, Kozlov 16 (Lapointe, Lapointe), 10:28. 3, Buffalo, Peca 22, 12:13. 4, Buffalo, Grosek 14 (Satan, Patrick), 12:52. 5, Buffalo, Brown 15 (Satan), 18:19 (pp). 17:50. Third Period–6, Detroit, Fedorov 18 (Holmstrom, Murphy), 2:20 (pp). 7, Buffalo, Satan 27 (Brown, Grosek), 7:06. 8, Detroit, Kozlov 17 (Larionov, Macoun), 9:21. Overtime–None. Shots on goal–Detroit 10-9-12-7–38. Buffalo 8-10-5-2–25. Goalies–Detroit, Osgood. Buffalo, Roloson. A–18,595 (17,104).

Boston 3 1 2–6
Chicago 0 3 0–3
First Period–1, Boston, Bourque 5 (Thornton, Ricbitaille), 11:25 (pp). 2, Boston, Khristich 22 (Elliott), 12:29. 3, Boston, Khristich 23 (Bourque, Samsonov), 19:36. Second Period–4, Boston, Mann 1 (Carter), 1:40. 5, Chicago, Zhamnov 11 (Emerson, Gilmour), 8:17. 6, Chicago, Chelios 8, 12:11 (sh). 7, Chicago, Daze 13 (Lafiamme, White), 17:26 (pp). Third Period–8, Boston, Samsonov 20 (Khristich, Allison), 5:35. 9, Boston, Kmrsbch 24 (Allison), 15:31. Shots on goal–Boston 7-8-13–28. Chicago 9-12-10–31. Goalies–Boston, Tallas, Dafoe. Chicago, Thibault. A–19,493 (17,104).

Colorado 0 1 0 0–1
Dallas 1 0 0 0–1
First Period–1, Dallas, Hull 25 (Sydor, Modano), 7:58 (pp). Second Period–2, Colorado, Drury 12 (Deadmarsh, Forsberg), 11:30. Third Period–None. Overtime–None. Shots on goal–Colorado 6-6-4–16. Dallas 8-6-8-2–24. Goalies–Colorado, Roy. Dallas, Belfour. A–16,928 (16,928).

N.Y. Islanders 0 0 1–1
Carolina 3 0 1–4
First Period–1, Carolina, Primeau 25 (Wesley), 8:07. 2, Carolina, O'Neill 12 (Kapanen, Kron), 17:10 (ppl. 3, Carolina, Sheppard 20 (Battaglia), 17:46. Second Period–None. Third Period–4, New York, Nemchinov 7 (Lawrence), 2:19. 5, Carolina, Sheppard 21 (Francis), 19:51 (en). Shots on goal–New York 7-6-14–29. Carolina 15-14-8–37. Goalies–New York, Salo. Carolina, Irbe. A–9,913 (11,059).

Pittsburgh 1 0 0–1
Philadelphia 0 2 0–2
First Period–1, Pittsburgh, Straka 25, 3:25 (pp). Second Period–2, Philadelphia, Lindros 34 (Desjardins, LeClair), 4:09. 3, Philadelphia, Langkow 11 (LeClair, Lindros), 8:17 (pp). Third Period–None. Shots on goal–Pittsburgh 10-4-5–19. Philadelphia 14-6-6–26. Goalies–Pittsburgh, Barrasso. Philadelphia, Hextall. A–19,884 (19,519).

N.Y. Rangers 0 0 1 1–2
Edmonton 0 1 0 0–1
First Period–None. Second Period–1, Edmonton, Giver 10 (Brown, McAmmond), 13:44. Third Period–2, New York, Savard 9 (MacLean), 12:31. Overtime–3, New York, Lacroix 1 (Knuble, Nedved), :45. Shots on goal–New York 12-7-7-2–28. Edmonton 17-10-13-0–40. Goalies–New York, Richter. Edmonton, Essensa. A–17,100 (17,099).



HAIL TO THE CHIEF – Runnerup Tiger Woods (l) congratulates Nissan Open winner Ernie Els. (Reuters)

Els holds off trio to win Nissan Open

LOS ANGELES (AP) – All week, Ernie Els ranked Tiger Woods and David Duval the best golfers in the world. Then he went out and beat them and everybody else in the Nissan Open.

Els shot his second consecutive 3-under-par 68 Sunday despite bogeying two of the last three holes. He held off Woods and Ted Tryba, both of whom bogeyed No. 18, and Davis Love III to win by two strokes.

Els finished at 14-under-par 270 as swirling breezes off the Pacific kicked up in the afternoon to make for a ragged finish at the Riviera Country Club, which yielded a course-record 61 to Tryba a day earlier.

Els gave Woods and Tryba a chance to catch him when his 4-foot par putt slid past the cup on No. 18. He then watched anxiously as the final group, Woods, Tryba and Love, finished.

Love parred the last hole, but Woods and Tryba, who needed birdies to force a playoff, settled for bogeys.

Woods, who won a week earlier at San Diego with scores of 62 and 65 on the last two days, frowned just after he hit his approach shot on 18: he realized he had just ruined any realistic chance to catch up by shanking the shot.

The ball sailed far to the right on the 451-yard, par-4 hole, bounced into a concession stand and rolled under a chair.

He was given a drop, but still had a very long chip to the green and was forced to try his par putt from 25 feet away.

Tryba left his third shot, a chip from the rough, somewhat short of the hole on the way to his closing bogey.

Els began the day tied with Woods and Love, two shots behind Tryba.

Els, a 29-year-old South African who splits his time between Orlando, where he owns a home, and his native country, plays a lot overseas, and 19 PGA Tour appearances in 1997 were his most ever.

Still, the Nissan win assured him a six-year run of victories on the Tour. He won once each year from 1994 to 1998.

Nissan Open scores

Final scores and money winnings Sunday of the $2.8 million Nissan Open on the 6,950-yard, par-71 Riviera Country Club course:

Ernie Els, $504,000	66-68-68-68—270
Ted Tryba, $285,067	70-69-61-72—272
Tiger Woods, $209,067	62-65-75-70—272
Davis Love III, $209,067	66-66-69-70—272
Nick Price, $106,400	67-71-67-68—273
David Duval, $106,400	65-71-67-69—273
Scott Hoch, $90,300	71-69-68-66—274
Bob Estes, $90,300	66-67-72-69—274
Mark Brooks, $72,800	68-71-70-66—275
Robert Karlsson, $72,800	71-66-70-68—275

Tyson tantrum linked to missed medicine

LAS VEGAS (AP) – Mike Tyson had been taken off an antidepressant drug at the direction of a jail physician two days before he became enraged and threw a television set against some bars in a Maryland jail, a source close to the former heavyweight boxing champion said.

The incident prompted jail officials to lock Tyson in an isolation cell at the Montgomery County Detention Center, and could lead to anything from a reprimand to further jail time for the fighter.

A source close to Tyson said jail officials had stopped giving him the antidepressant Zoloft two days before the Friday afternoon incident. The medication was stopped after Tyson refused to let a prison psychologist examine him.

Tyson refused on the grounds he had already undergone extensive psychological examinations by doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital in October and was under the continuing care of Dr. Richard Goldberg, who heads the psychiatric program at Georgetown University, the source said.

Tyson had been taking Zoloft on a daily basis for the past four months, except for the week prior to his January 16 fight with Francois Botha. Tyson was weaned gradually from the drug during that week, and began taking it again the day after the fight, the source, who asked not to be identified, said.

Tyson was in a common area with other prisoners on Friday and was talking on the phone when a guard came in and hung the phone up, the source said.

The action enraged Tyson, who picked up the television set and threw it against some bars. Tyson, the source said, immediately apologized and offered to pay for the TV.

Doctors at Massachusetts General testified at Tyson's licensing hearing before the Nevada Athletic Commission in October that the former heavyweight champion was often depressed but that his mood swings could be controlled if he took the proper medication.

On the medication, Tyson was cheerful and cooperative in interviews with reporters when training for the Botha fight in Phoenix in December. The week of the fight, though, he was combative at times and engaged in a profanity-laced tirade against a New York television reporter four days before the fight.

Roy, Belfour battle to 1-all draw; Lindros helps end Philly funk

DALLAS (AP) – Goaltenders Patrick Roy of the Colorado Avalanche and Ed Belfour of the Dallas Stars sparkled as two of the elite teams in the NHL played to a 1-1 tie Sunday.

The Avalanche's Chris Drury and the Stars' Brett Hull were the only players to find the net.

Roy stopped 23 shots, including two in overtime as Dallas swarmed the Avalanche net but couldn't connect. Roy turned back shots by Pat Verbeek and Derian Hatcher in overtime. Belfour turned away 17 shots, none in overtime.

Red Wings 4, Sabres 4

Vyacheslav Kozlov's hat-trick goal in the third period gave visiting Detroit a tie.

Bruins 6, Blackhawks 3

Dmitri Khristich scored three goals as host Boston snapped a three-game losing streak.

Ray Bourque, Sergei Samsonov and rookie Cameron Mann, who had his first NHL goal, also scored for Boston.

Flyers 2, Penguins 1

Eric Lindros scored his 34th goal and John LeClair had two assists as host Philadelphia snapped out of its February funk.

The Flyers, who had lost four of their previous six games, held Jaromir Jagr without a point in a game featuring the NHL's top three scorers.

Rangers 2, Oilers 1 (OT)

Eric Lacroix scored his first goal of the season 45 seconds into overtime to lift New York to a road win.

Rangers goaltender Mike Richter stopped 39 shots, many from close range.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	30	14	13	73	178	122
New Jersey	31	20	7	69	171	147
Pittsburgh	30	18	7	67	173	150
N.Y. Rangers	23	27	7	53	158	159
N.Y. Islanders	18	34	7	43	139	178

Northeast Division

Ottawa	32	16	8	72	164	118
Toronto	32	20	4	68	181	168
Buffalo	27	19	11	65	156	124
Boston	23	24	9	55	142	132
Montreal	23	28	8	54	139	154

Southeast Division

Carolina	27	22	10	64	156	149
Florida	21	21	15	57	142	147
Washington	23	28	5	51	141	147
Tampa Bay	12	40	5	29	117	210

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	31	23	5	67	175	147
St. Louis	22	23	10	54	152	144
Nashville	20	31	6	46	135	185
Chicago	16	35	8	40	131	199

Northwest Division

Colorado	29	21	7	65	154	139
Edmonton	22	27	8	52	155	149
Calgary	20	28	9	49	145	166
Vancouver	18	32	7	43	142	182

Pacific Division

Dallas	35	10	9	79	159	107
Phoenix	29	17	10	68	145	124
Anaheim	24	25	9	57	155	147
San Jose	20	25	13	53	132	136
Los Angeles	21	31	5	47	134	153

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأعلى

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Moscow Chamber Opera presents one performance only of Shostakovich's *The Nose*, based on a story by Gogol, tonight at the New Heichal Hatarbut in Rishon Lezion. Tomorrow, Thursday and Saturday the company remains at the same venue performing Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. All performances at 8:30 p.m.

The final stage of this year's Young Musicians Competition takes place today from 2 p.m. at the Tel Aviv Museum where six pianists and three violinists will compete for the coveted prizes.

ENGLISH THEATER

RACHEL BELL

Straight from London's West End comes London's longest-running play, Ray Cooney's *Run For Your Wife*, a marital comedy from the Theater of Comedy Company. Featuring the original West End cast, the play continues tonight at Kfar Sava's Cultural Center at 9.

THEATER

RACHEL BELL

Three generations of rebels, a grandmother, mother and son, portray the changing issues plaguing Israel's social conscience in *The Rebels*, by Edna Mazia. Times have changed considerably since the grandmother's days of political activism in Left, and the tension between the old and new is not easily resolvable. Tonight on the main stage of Tel Aviv's Cameri Theater, at 8:30. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English).



A Nikolai Gogol short story is the basis of the Moscow Chamber Opera's presentation of 'The Nose.' Tonight in Rishon Lezion.

OPERA

RACHEL BELL

The Theater Operetta of Budapest presents *Die Csardasfürstin* ("The Gypsy Princess") by Emmerich Kalman, the story of an adventurous princess who dances into and out of scrapes. The production will feature the entire 60-member cast of the Budapest Theater and their orchestra, tonight at the Netanya Auditorium at 8:30.

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Haydn: String Quartet no 1 in E flat op 20; Mendelssohn: 6 Pieces for Piano
7:07 C.P.E. Bach: Trio Sonata in E minor; Bach/Liszt: Prelude and Fugue in A minor; Mozart: Piano Concerto no 27 K595
8:05 Schumann: Fantasiestücke op 73; Poulenc: Ballet suite Les Biches; Stravinsky: 3 movements from Petrouchka (Pöntinen)
9:05 Hummel: Trio no 7 in E flat op 96; Vivaldi: Concerto for 2 Guitars and Orchestra no 532; Mozart: Serenade for 13 Winds K361; Beethoven: Piano Concerto no 5 "Emperor"; Prokofiev: Ballet – On the Dnieper
12:00 Light Classical – works by Shostakovich
12:45 Artist of the Week – Ferenc Fricsay, conductor. Beethoven: Symphony no 8 in D minor op 125 (1958)
14:06 Music from Far and Near
15:00 From the Recording Studio – Guy Braunstein, violin, and other artists. Orgad: Ballade for Solo Violin; Schubert: Quartet movement in C minor (Hildesheim / Sivan / Kiss); Shostakovich: Violin Concerto no 1 (JSO / M.Shostakovich)
16:00 My Concert
16:50 New CDs – Mozart with a Question Mark (5th recording): Quartet in B flat for Oboe, 2 Violas and Cello (after K436) / Octet in E flat major (after K452) / Quartet in E flat for Clarinet and String Trio (Consortium Classicum); C.P.E. Bach: 4 Songs / 4 Psalms / Fantasy and Monologue on Hamlet (Martens, baritone / Rampy, forte piano); Tcherepnin: Narkis and Acco op 40 (Haag Chamber Choir / Haag House Orch / Rozhdestvensky); Granados: From Goyescas
20:05 Works by Haydn: String Quartet in D op 64/5 / String Quartet in D minor op 42 / String Quartet in D op 76/5 (Cropper / Birks / Ireland / Gregory-Smith)
22:00 Sounds from Around the World

■ RADIOWEST

Chill news on the hour followed by RadioWEST local news
6:30 Morning Drive with Mark Berman (until 9:00)
7:45 Sports Update
8:05 Lions Trust Financial Update
9:00 Morning Brunch with Telsha Bader
13:00 Memory Lane
15:00 Afternoon Drive with Dr. G (until 18:30)
17:45 Sports Update
18:30 Newsmakers with Mordechai Twersky
19:00 Acoustic Cafe with David Livni
22:00 Westrock with David Susskauer
1:00 Late Night Music with Heck

■ BBC WORLD SERVICE

6:00 The World Today
7:00 The World Today
8:00 The World Today
9:00 World News
9:15 Outlook
9:55 My Century
10:00 World News
10:05 Performance
10:30 Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin
10:35 Discovery
11:00 World News
11:05 The Moonstone
11:20 Inspiration!
11:50 Sports Roundup
12:00 Newsdesk
12:30 Britain Today
12:45 Good Books
13:00 Newsdesk
13:30 Omnibus
14:00 World News
14:05 Outlook
14:45 Sports Roundup
15:00 Newshour
16:00 World News
16:05 Discovery
16:30 On Screen
17:00 World News
17:05 Sports Roundup
17:15 Westway
17:30 Everywoman
18:00 World News
18:15 Insight
18:30 Megamix
19:00 Europe Today
19:30 World Business Report
19:45 Sports Roundup
20:00 World News
20:15 Britain Today
20:30 Omnibus
21:00 World News
21:05 Discovery
21:30 Human Remains
21:45 Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin
22:00 Newshour
23:00 World News
23:05 World Business Report
23:20 Britain Today
23:30 Meridian (Live)
00:00 World News

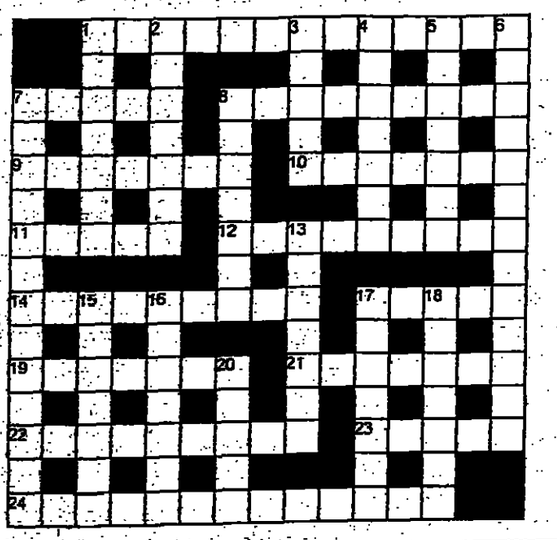
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 How someone who was laden had influence? (7,6)
7 Excited to see the man put out (3,2)
8 Put in new order for back boiler (9)
9 Where one may hear the sound of cows away from the mountains (7)
10 Shellfish for sailor on his own (7)
11 Danny, disheartened, is unwell going round the charming scene (5)
12 Burglar—or comedian? (9)
14 The first flighty character at the controls? (4,5)
17 Bill and he had continued giving pain (5)
19 Saying it's a grape I'm making a mess of (7)
21 Grab me violently, taking nothing during the trade ban (7)
22 As pointed out in New Zealand perhaps (9)
23 Tie up a bundle of hay (5)
24 Very old retired bishop's greeting? (4,4,2,3)

DOWN

1 Remove something, a method to shorten at the beginning (3,4)
2 Artist, help a different artist (7)
3 Girl, Heidi, an Austrian in hiding (5)
4 Set aside a distinctive characteristic (7)
5 A French partner in the union going round the armoury (7)
6 Suddenly understand money is losing its value (3,5,5)
7 Difficult to find place to get money from (4-2-3-4)
8 Another arid state is basic (7)
13 Being naive, he left without a suit (7)
15 Wooden prop placed on the cheese (7)
16 Piece about monkey on the wall (7)
17 From USA, Burt brought a strawberry tree (7)
18 Being hairy might suit her! (7)
20 Lady's title from two different mothers (5)



SOLUTIONS

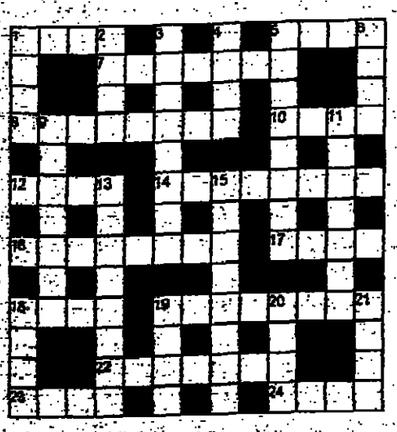


Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Litter, 4 Early, 8 Pence, 9 Inhuman, 10 Epitaph, 11 Safe, 12 Tip, 14 Zero, 15 Army, 18 Rue, 21 Risk, 23 Crimson, 25 Inter-

DOWN: 1 Lapped, 2 Tensile, 3 Elevator, 4 Echo, 5 Rumba, 6 Yankee, 7 Fight, 13 Patience, 16 Mistral, 17 Praise, 19 Eclat, 20 Intern, 22 Sleep, 24 Stay.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Quartet (4)
5 Travel on water (4)
7 Caution (anag.) (7)
8 Rockfall (8)
10 Testament (4)
12 Sink stopper (4)
14 Subtract (4,4)
16 North Italian region (8)
17 Catalogue (4)
18 Pagan symbol (4)
19 Struggling (8)
22 In name only (7)
23 Hit hard (4)
24 Sharp bark (4)

DOWN

1 Drop (4)
2 South African currency (4)
3 Carver (8)
4 Walk lamely (4)
5 Winter missile (8)
6 Sprawl (4)
9 Including everybody (3,4)
11 Connection (7)
13 Eating greedily (8)
15 Chief element (8)
18 St ——, Cornish town (4)
19 Jolt (4)
20 Easter flower (4)
21 Swallow hard (4)

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TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

ARABIC PROGRAMS
6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Jews in History
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 Cooking with Caprial
9:25 Family Ties
10:00 For the very young
11:00 Reading
11:25 Social Studies
12:55 Literature
13:30 Hanni's Room

■ CHANNEL 1

15:30 Heartbreak High
16:15 Eli and Lily
16:30 Garden Party
16:59 A New Evening
17:35 Juke Box
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropo
19:00 News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 Election Special
20:20 With Meni
21:00 News
21:30 Weekly Lotto Draw
21:35 Docu-Media
22:10 The True Story: The Avengers – seven-part documentary about Jewish acts of revenge against Nazis. Part 4: Remember What He Did – the Eichmann operation
23:05 Grace Under Fire
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 Song for the Day
6:00 Animation
6:43 Reshet in the Morning
9:00 Jude Morning
10:00 National Geographic: Part 11 – Puma
11:00 LA Fame: Part 10
12:00 Animal Stories
12:30 Five Children and It: Part 2(r)
13:00 Open Cards
13:30 Kate and Allie
14:00 The Mommies
14:30 News for Your Eyes
15:00 Dream On You
15:30 Popeye and Son
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Street Corner
17:00 Five with Gadi Sukenik
17:30 Third In Entertainment
18:00 Popeye
18:05 Viper – Mafia Ladies Club
19:00 Family and a Half
19:30 Election Diary '99
20:00 News
20:30 Candid Camera
21:25 Focus
22:00 Hot Mishal
23:15 Night Bird
00:00 News
00:05 Night Bird – contd.
00:35 Little Circle
1:30 Loving – a local TV reporter receives a hostile reception when she endeavors to uncover the brains behind an illegal prostitution ring. With Lloyd Bridges and Geraldine Page
3:00 From the Concert Hall – Mahler's Symphony No. 1, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Kurt Masur
3:55 Night Song

■ JORDAN TV (31)

Broadcasts passages from the Koran and news until the end of the official 40-day mourning period (March 20) following the death of King Hussein.

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27) (unconfirmed)

7:30 700 Club
8:00 TV Shopping
15:00 Rin Tin Tin
15:30 The Bionic Six
16:00 Woody Woodpecker
16:30 White Fang
17:00 700 Club
17:30 Arabic World News
18:00 Colombo
19:30 Ed Sullivan
20:00 The Manager
21:00 Italian Soccer
23:00 Late Show with David Letterman
23:30 CNN Entertainment
00:00 TV Shopping
2:00 700 Club

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:30 Dictator
17:30 Telekeesel
18:00 The Oppressed – Egyptian series
18:30 News in Arabic
19:30 Star News
20:00 Traveling Gourmet
20:30 Showcase
21:00 News
21:30 Les allumettes suedoises (French, 199) – six-part series based on a best-selling Robert Sebatier novel about the author's adolescence in Paris of the 1930s. With Nael Marandin and Adriana Asti
22:30 Paul McCartney: In the World Tonight – documentary about the making of the ex-Beatle's Flaming Pie album
23:10 Hollywood Leading Men and Ladies

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Life Skills
16:00 All People
16:30 My Town – Berlin and Bombay
17:00 Data Bank
17:40 Nature
18:00 Italian
18:30 Photographic Vision
19:00 Jewish Issues
19:30 Mirror
20:00 New Evening
20:30 Simply Style
20:55 Little Big Country
21:00 Muses: Montparnasse Revisited: Part 8
22:00 In the Heat of the Night
22:50 Long Search: Part 8

■ CHANNEL 3

6:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (r)
7:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (r)
7:45 Good Evening with Guy Pines (r)
8:00 Celeste
9:00 Falcon Crest
9:45 The Young and the Restless (r)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (r)
11:15 Forever Little Women
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 Dallas
13:30 Newsradio
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Ricki Lake
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Forever Little Women
16:50 Days of Our Lives
17:30 Friends
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Melrose Place
20:25 Friends
20:50 Beverly Hills 90210: Best moments
21:35 Dreams of Youth
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (r)
23:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
23:45 Good Evening with Guy Pines (r)
00:15 ER
1:05 Ghost Stories
1:50 Red Shoe Diaries

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Black Belt Angels (1994) – the daughters of a martial-arts master take on a gangster and his evil bunch of ninja henchmen who try to take over the school
12:55 A Woman's Secret (1949) – film noir about the shooting of singer by the woman who built her up, a suspicious confession and a detective trying to get to the truth. With Maureen O'Hara, Melvyn Douglas and Gloria Grahame
14:20 Special report on the new film *Lolita*
14:35 Prophet of Evil (1993) – An FBI agent investigates a religious sect after the cult leader's brother receives threatening letters. With Brian Dennehy
16:10 Jobman (1990) – South African portrait of intolerant society on a farm. A deaf-mute's unusual independence causes discomfort among his co-workers and leads to violence
17:30 The End of Summer (1996) – period drama about the love between an upright aristocrat and a wild railway tycoon. With Jacqueline Bisset, Julian Sands and Peter Weller
19:45 I've Been Waiting for You (1998) – horror. The residents of a small New England town believe the new girl in town is a witch returning to revenge her burning a century earlier. With Sarah Chalke
21:10 Sentinel
22:00 Strange Days (1995) – futuristic action mangled with social criticism. An ex-con stumbles upon a murder conspiracy. With Ralph Fiennes, Angela Bassett and Juliette Lewis
00:25 Wilbur Falls (1997) – thriller. A teenager decides to get her revenge on a group of kids who harass her, but things get out of hand. With Danny Aiello, Sally Kirkland and Shanee Edward
2:00 The Morning After (1986) – Sidney Lumet thriller about an alcoholic actress who wakes up in bed with a dead man and does not remember how it happened. With Jane Fonda, Jeff Bridges, Raul Julia and Daine Salinger
3:40 Gang in Blue (1996, 93 mins.) – a black police officer discovers a group of white-supremacist vigilantes within his department and sets out to expose them with the help of an FBI agent. With Mario and Melvin Van Peebles

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
8:05 Simba, the Jungle King
8:35 Little Mouse on the Prairie
9:05 Treasure Island
9:35 The Smurfs
10:05 Ninja Turtles
10:35 Batman
11:00 Dexter's Lab
11:30 King Arthur and the Knights of Justice
12:00 Mowgli
12:30 Robinson Sucro
13:00 Musty
13:10 Make-Believe Closet
13:30 Simba, the Jungle King
14:00 Oakey Doky
14:15 Snorks
14:35 Mozart and the Gang
15:05 The Smurfs
15:35 Ninja Turtles
16:05 Batman
16:35 Dexter's Lab
17:00 Calamity Jane
17:30 Bandana Brenda
18:05 Tales of the South Seas
19:00 Moesha
19:30 Family Matters

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	Election Special	Election Diary '99	Melrose Place	I've Been Waiting for You	Family Matters	Beyond 2000
20:00	With Meni	News	Friends		Married with Children	Voodoo
20:30	News	Candid Camera	Beverly Hills 90210		Full House	Futureworld
21:00	Weekly Lotto Draw	Focus	Dreams of Youth	Sentinal	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	
21:30	Docu-Media	Hot Mishal	Yair Lapid Live at 10	Strange Days	Lois and Clark	Nuclear Sharks
22:00	The True Story: The Avengers		Seinfeld		The Gay Divorcee	
22:30	Grace Under Fire		The Tonight Show with Jay Leno			Shabiul
23:00						

19:55 Married with Children
20:20 Full House
20:40 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
21:10 Lois and Clark

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 The Gay Divorcee (1934) – adaptation of Cole Porter's musical about a pretty woman who wants a divorce from her absent husband. With Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Directed by Mark Sandrich
23:40 Drums in the Deep South (1951, 86 mins.) – Two West Point classmates find themselves fighting for opposite causes during the Civil War and in love with the same girl. With James Craig and Guy Madison

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University (rpts from Monday at 23:30)
8:00 Wild Encounters: Caribou (r)
8:25 Undersea Explorers: Giants of Socorro (r)
8:50 The Heart of Healing: Ancient Healing (r)
9:40 Vengerov (r)
10:35 Zehetmair and Mustonen (r)
11:50 Cyprus, Hostage to History – a look at the many turns of fortune on this Mediterranean island
12:45 Shabiul (r)
13:10 Telenovela (r)
13:35 Crowded House (r)
14:25 Futureworld: Planet Zoo (r)
15:15 Nuclear Sharks: Final Mission (r)
16:10 The Forest of Dreams – the colorful tropical forest of French Guyana
17:00 Open University: Cycles of Life; Dynamics of Person-to-Person Communications; It's Strictly Business
18:30 Open University: In Search of the Dragon – the search for dinosaur remains in the Gobi Desert
19:00 Shabiul: Bears – children's nature magazine hosted by Michal Yanai
19:40 Beyond 2000
20:10 Voodoo – an in-depth survey of the animistic religion of Haiti and its continued strength among immigrants in Montreal
21:00 Futureworld: The Road Ahead – life in the 21st century
21:55 Nuclear Sharks: Submarine Inferno – nuclear submarines during the cold war
22:50 Shabiul (r)
23:20 Open University: Everdale, Confronting Utopia; Role of the Conductor; World of Chemistry
1:20 Shabiul (r)
1:50 Beyond 2000 (r)
2:15 Voodoo (r)

■ STAR WORLD (18/15)

6:00 Chicago Hope
7:00 Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Santa Barbara
9:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
9:30 Molly Katzen's Cooking Show
10:00 Snowy River, The McGregor Saga
11:00 Mysterious Island
11:30 Small Wonder
12:00 The Brittas Empire
12:30 World News
13:00 Asia News & World Business Report
13:30 Home Improvement
14:00 LA Heat
15:00 The Pretender
16:00 NYPD Blue
17:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:30 Home Improvement
18:00 LA Heat
19:00 The Pretender
20:00 NYPD Blue
21:00 Home Improvement
21:30 Newhart
22:00 The Brittas Empire
22:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:00 The Wonder Years
23:30 Mr. Belvedere
00:00 Aerobics Oz Style
00:30 World News
1:00 Home Improvement
1:30 Candid Camera
2:00 Aerobics Oz Style
2:30 The Brittas Empire

■ NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (17/19)

6:00 All Aboard Zaire's Amazing River Bazaar (r)
6:30 Old Faith and the New
7:00 CNBC
13:00 To be announced
14:00 Bali, Masterpiece of the Gods (r)
15:00 Give Sharks a Chance
15:30 Rocky Mountain Beaver Pond (r)
16:00 A Deadly Beauty (r)
16:30 Lions of the Kalahari
17:30 Into the Volcano (r)
18:00 Flight From the Volcano (r)
18:30 Searching for Extraterrestrials (r)
19:00 All Aboard Zaire's Amazing River Bazaar (r)
19:30 Old Faith and the New
20:00 Siarau: The Tidal Forest – Borneo mangroves
21:00 Okinawa: The Generous Sea – fishing techniques of Okinawans
21:30 Mystery of the Lost Red Paint People – the disappearance of an ancient civilization of North American Indians
22:30 Vanuatu Volcano – in the S.Pacific archipelago
23:30 Piranha!
00:00 Arctic Refuge: A Vanishing Wilderness
1:00 The Soviet Circus
2:00 Siarau: The Tidal Forest (r)

■ BBC WORLD (13/14)

News on the hour
6:30 USA Direct (r)
7:30 QED (r)
8:30 The Travel Show (r)
9:30 Hard Talk (r)
10:30 QED (r)
11:30 Hard Talk (r)
12:30 Radical Highs (r)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 QED (r)
15:30 The World Today
16:30 Holiday (r)
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 Correspondent (r)
19:30 The Travel Show (r)
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (r)
22:30 Reporters (r)
23:10 World Business Report
23:30 Talking Movies
00:10 Europe Direct
1:00 World News and Business Report
1:45 Asia Today (r)
2:30 The Travel Show (r)

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)

News throughout the day
6:15 American Edition
6:30 World Report
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:00 CNN This Morning
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:00 Larry King (r)
12:30 World Sport
13:15 American Edition
13:30 Biz Asia
14:30 Fortune
15:15 Asian Edition
15:30 World Report
16:30 Showbiz Today
17:30 World Sport
18:30 World Beat
19:00 Larry King Live (r)
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business Today
22:30 Q&A with Riz Khan
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
1:30 Moneyline Newshour
2:30 Showbiz Today

■ SKY NEWS (14/13)

News on the hour
6:30 The Book Show
7:30 CBS Evening News
8:00 Sunrise
12:30 Sky World News
13:30 Money
16:30 Your Call
18:30 Sky World News
19:00 Live at Five
21:30 Sportsline
22:30 Sky Business Report
23:30 Sky World News
00:00 Prime Time
2:30 CBS Evening News

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Show Jumping
17:00 Spanish League Soccer
18:30 National League Handball
19:30 Sports News
20:00 Sports Candid Camera
21:30 German League Soccer
23:00 English Soccer

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Alpine Skiing
10:30 Live Nordic Skiing
11:00 Nordic Skiing
11:45 Live Nordic Skiing
12:30 Nordic Skiing
14:30 Live Nordic Skiing
16:30 Live Alpine Skiing
17:30 Live Tennis – London
18:30 Nordic Skiing
19:30 Live Alpine Skiing
20:15 Live Soccer – Russia vs Belgium
21:00 Soccer – The Netherlands vs Yugoslavia
21:30 Live Soccer – Spain vs Croatia
23:00 Live Boxing
1:00 Alpine Skiing
2:00 Rally

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Manhattan Murder Mystery 7:45 • All Over Me—Stroszek 9:45 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Lolita—Elizabeth 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Negotiator—The Truman Show 4:30, 7:15, 10 • You've Got Mail—Sliding Doors 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Ronin 10 • ANTZ 4:30, 7:15 **JERUSALEM THEATER** Washington Square 9:30 Central Station 7, 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Love At Second Glance—I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Rush Hour 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Siege 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Little Voice 5, 7:30, 9:45 **MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL** ☎ 5700868 There's Something About Mary 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Meet Joe Black Sat. 9:30; Sun-Wed. 6, 9:30 **SMADAR** ☎ 5818168 Happiness 4:30, 10 • Velvet Goldmine 7:30
TEL AVIV
DIZENGOFF Lolita 11 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 • Central Station 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:30, 10 • Sliding Doors 1, 5:30, 10 • Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 11 a.m., 3:15, 7:30 **GAT** ☎6967888 Beloved 6:30, 9:45 **GLOBUS** ☎6081130/1 Elizabeth 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ—You've Got Mail—The Truman Show 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Head On Fri. 11:30 a.m., 2, 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 11:30 a.m., 2:45, 6, 9:30 • Ronin 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10; **G.G. HOD** 1–4 ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Ronin—The Big Lebowski 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 **LEV** ☎5288288 Velvet Goldmine 12 noon, 2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 10 • Happiness 12 noon, 4, 7, 9:45 • Girls' Night 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:30 • The Dream Life of Angels 12 noon, 2:30, 5, 7:45, 10 • Hana-Bi 9:45 **LEV AVIV** ☎6417148 Velvet Goldmine—Girls Night 7:30, 10 • The Dream Life of Angels—Nights of Cabiria—Hana-Bi 7:30, 10 **LIMOR** ☎6968084 The Mighty 6 • Empire of the Senses 10 • The Big Lebowski 8 **G.G. PE'ER** ☎5442141 Elizabth 4:45, 7:15, 10 • You've Got Mail—The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • ANTZ Sat. 11:30 a.m., 2 **RAV-CHEN** ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Circle Rush Hour Fri. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—The Siege—Snake Eyes 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Stepmom 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 **RAV-OR** 1-5 ☎ 5102674 Opera House Love At Second Glance—Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Little Voice—There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Next Stop Wonderland 5, 7:30, 9:45 **TEL AVIV MUSEUM** My Son The Fanatic 5, 8, 10
HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎8325755 Sliding Doors 7:15, 9:30 • Velvet Goldmine 7:15, 9:30 **CINEMATHEQUE** ☎8383424 Princess Bride 5 • White Squall 7 • Do The Right Thing 9:30 **MORIAH** ☎8242477 Happiness 7:15, 9:30 **ORI** ☎8500056 Lolita—Elizabeth 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • You've Got Mail—The Truman Show 4:45, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 4:45 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Ronin 7:15, 10 **PANORAMA** ☎8382020 Lolita 4:15, 7, 9:30 • You've Got Mail 4:30, 7, 9:30 **RAV-CHEN** ☎8500055 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—The Siege 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • Rush Hour—There's Something About Mary 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • Stepmom 4:30, 7, 9:30 **RAV-GAT** 1-2 ☎ 8674311 Rounders 7, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 7, 9:30 **RAV-MOR** 1-7 ☎ 8416898 Rush Hour 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Little Voice 5, 7, 9:30 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—Life Is Beautiful 4:45, 7, 9:30 • The Siege 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Stepmom 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 4:30, 7, 9:30 **RAV-OR** 1-3 ☎ 8246553 Love At Second Glance—Little Voice 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Life Is Beautiful 4:45, 7, 9:30
AFULA
RAV CHEN ☎6424047 Rush Hour—I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:15, 9:30 • Life Is Beautiful 7:15, 9:30
ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 Ronin 7:30, 10 • The Siege 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:15 • ANTZ 5
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 You've Got Mail—Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎8661120 Rush Hour—I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Siege—There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Stepmom—Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 You've Got Mail—Psycho—Sliding Doors 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎6711221 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—The Siege 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Rush Hour—There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎5531077 Lolita 4:30, 7, 9:45 • Rush Hour 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Siege—You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
BEERSHEBA
G.G. ORI ☎6103111 You've Got Mail—The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Character 4:45, 7:15, 10 **RAV-NEGEV** 1-4 ☎6235278 Rush Hour 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Little Voice—I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45
EILAT
EILAT CINEMA I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—Rush Hour 7:30, 10 • The Siege 7:30, 10 **GIL** ☎6340182 You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10
HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 Rush Hour—I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10 • The Siege—Enemy of the State 5, 7:15, 10
HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎6802666 Enemy of the State 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 • Life Is Beautiful 5:30, 7:30, 10 **DANIEL** ☎ 9544044 Stepmom 7:30, 10 **STAR** ☎ 9589068 Rush Hour—You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Enemy of the State 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 5
HOD HASHARON
GIL ☎ 7408591 You've Got Mail—The Siege 5, 7:30, 10 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10 • Washington Square 5, 7:30, 10
HOLON
GLOBUS Lolita 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Rush Hour—You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • The Siege—I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 10 **STAR** I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:30, 10 • The Siege 10 • Stepmom 7:15 • Sliding Doors 7:30, 10 • Girls Night 7:30, 10
KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎9882521 Rush Hour—I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 7:15, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 7, 9:30
KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎7677370 Elizabeth 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Rush Hour—You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Lolita 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Central Station—Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 10
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. GIL ☎8779877 Lolita 7, 9:30 • You've Got Mail—Stepmom 7, 9:30 • The Siege—There's Something About Mary 7, 9:30 • Meet Joe Black 7, 9:30 • The Negotiator—Ronin 7, 9:30
KIRYAT SHMONA
G.G. GIL ☎6905080 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—You've Got Mail 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Siege 4:30, 7, 9:30
NAHARIYA
G.G. GIL Rush Hour—The Siege 5, 7:30, 10 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 10 **UPPER NAZARETH** G.G GIL ☎6561332 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—Milky Way 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Siege—There's Something About Mary 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Washington Square 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Meet Joe Black 6, 9:30 • Enemy of the State 4:15, 7, 10
NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 9404729 Elizabeth 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Lolita 4:30, 7:15, 10 • You've Got Mail—There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 10
NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 8628452 Lolita 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Central Station—You've Got Mail—The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 8618570 Rush Hour 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
OR AKIVA
RAV CHEN ☎ 6262758 Rush Hour 7:15, 9:30 • The Siege—Life Is Beautiful 7, 9:30
OR YEHUDA G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 5333292 Meet Joe Black 9:30 • Washington Square—Sliding Doors—The Truman Show 7:30, 10
PETAH TIKVA
G.G. GIL 1-6 ☎ 9087989 Lolita 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Little Voice—Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 10 • There's Something About Mary—You've Got Mail 5, 7:30, 10 • Meet Joe Black 9:30 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 **G.G. HECHAL** ☎ 9317374 Rush Hour 5, 7:30, 10 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 10 • I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10
RA'ANANA
CINEMATEK ☎ 7482915 King of the Masks 8:30 **PARK** ☎ 7711321 Rush Hour—Life Is Beautiful—I Still Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 10:15 • Stepmom 5, 7:30 • Happiness 7:15, 10 **RA'ANAN** Love At Second Glance 5, 7:30, 10:15 • Lolita 5, 7:30, 10:15 • Little Voice 5, 7:30, 10:15 • You've Got Mail—The Siege—Enemy of the State 5, 7:30, 10:15
RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 6197121 Rush Hour 5, 7:30, 9:45 • You've Got Mail—Life Is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Enemy of the State 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 **RAV-OASIS** 1-3 ☎ 6730687 I Still Know What You Did Last Summer—Siege 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Meet Joe Black 5:30, 9
RAMAT HASHARON
KOKHAV ☎ 5491979 Lolita 4:30, 7, 9:30
REHOVOT
CHEN ☎ 9362868 Lolita 7, 9:45 • Little Voice 7:30, 9:45 • Central Station

Gunning for No. 1



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Els' bells



Page 18

FIFA okays Arsenal-Sheff. Utd. replay

ZURICH (AP) – FIFA ruled yesterday that today's FA Cup replay between Arsenal and Sheffield United can go ahead.

The game was in doubt because soccer's world governing body had questioned whether the FA had the power to allow a replay after Arsenal had won the original game 2-1.

In an unprecedented move, the FA allowed the replay after Sheffield United protested that Arsenal's winner in the first game was scored unfairly.

The protest came when United deliberately kicked the ball out of play because one of their players was injured. When play resumed Arsenal's Ray Parlour threw the ball deep into the United half to return possession in the usual sporting way.

But Gunners' forward Nwankwo Kanu, perhaps unaware of the situation, chased after it and crossed for Marc Overmars to score what proved to be the winning goal.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger agreed to replay the game and the two clubs gained FA approval. Having initially applauded the FA for acting in the interests of fair play, FIFA then ordered an inquiry to see whether the FA had broken its rules.

Releasing a statement from its headquarters in Zurich, FIFA explained why it ordered the investigation.

"FIFA stressed that at no time had the laws of the game been deliberately infringed by the referee or the players involved in the incident but decided to consult the bureaux of the FIFA Committee for Legal Affairs and the Disciplinary Committee as it was felt that the incident merited closer attention," the statement said.

"Following study of a full report from the FA, FIFA said it was satisfied that the Association had acted not only in good faith but also according to its own competition regulations." David Davies, the FA's acting executive director, said he always felt that FIFA would rule in favor of a replay.

"We are pleased rather than relieved by the decision," he told BBC Radio Five Live.

"FIFA made it clear from the start that they had approved of what we had done but wanted clarification under which rule we had acted in the way that we did.

"It was a great opportunity for them to show that their commitment to fair play actually means something in practice." Before FIFA made its ruling Wenger said that if it had ruled the replay out, then his team would have been in an impossible position and he would consider pulling out of the FA Cup.

"No matter what we do it will be wrong," the Frenchman said. "If we go on in the competition we will always feel it wasn't proper and if we go out we will feel we have gone out of the competition without losing a game." Arsenal captain Tony Adams said the players would not have lived with themselves if they hadn't given Sheffield United another chance.

"There's no way I could have lifted the trophy in May having not replayed this game. We want it to be played. We think it's fair that we start again even-stevens in the fifth round of the FA Cup," the England center-back said.

"It is the sensible and honest thing to do. A mistake has been made and the lads involved have thrown their hands up.

"I'm honest and I know the manager is honest and there's no way we could have gone through to the next round without having offered a replay."

Jackson's last-second basket wins for Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) – Mark Jackson's short driving jumper over an outstretched Jayson Williams with 0.6 seconds left lifted the Indiana Pacers to an 80-79 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Sunday.

The game-winning basket was Jackson's only two points of the game.

Chris Mullin led the Pacers with 21 points, while Keith Van Horn scored 25 points to lead the Nets, including giving New Jersey a 79-78 lead with 10.2 seconds to play.

Shaq strikes back, box scores, Page 18



TUG OF WAR – Kings forward Chris Webber (c) battles for the ball against Timberwolves forward Joe Smith (left) and Bill Curley during first-quarter play. Minnesota beat Sacramento 102-90. (Reuters)

Magic 109, Rockets 83

Nick Anderson and Darrell Armstrong each scored 19 points and Penny Hardaway had 16 points and 11 assists as host Orlando handed Houston its third loss in four games.

Hakeem Olajuwon led the Rockets with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Scottie Pippen had 19 points, but was ejected during a scoreless second half in which he missed all four of his shots and drew two technicals in verbal exchanges with the officials.

Raptors 102, Grizzlies 87

Vince Carter scored 27 points, including five high-flying dunks, to lead host Toronto at the new Air Canada Center.

Kevin Willis added 17 points and 15 rebounds. Doug Christie scored 17, and Charles Oakley added 12 points, including some key jumpers down the stretch.

Timberwolves 102, Kings 90

Joe Smith scored a season-high 30 points and Stephon Marbury directed Minnesota's offense to its third consecutive 100-point game in a home victory.

Marbury scored 23 points and added 15 assists for his third consecutive double-double. Kevin Garnett had 22 points and a season-high 19 rebounds. Smith also had a double-double with 13 rebounds.

Spurs 85, Pistons 64

Tim Duncan scored 17 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead host San Antonio Spurs over the cold-shooting Pistons.

Grant Hill, who came into the game as the No. 2 scorer in the NBA with 27.1 points per game, led Detroit with 16 points but shot only 5-of-21.

SuperSonics 92, Lakers 89

Gary Payton scored 26 points and Olden Polynice had 15 points and a season-high 17 rebounds to lead Seattle to a home win.

The Lakers got 27 points and 10 rebounds from Shaquille O'Neal, while Kobe Bryant added 23 points and 13 rebounds.

In games reported in yesterday's edition:

Wizards 86, Celtics 75

Mitch Richmond scored 25 points and Rod Strickland had 20 points as Washington won at home.

Knicks 79, Bulls 63

Chicago tied its franchise record for fewest points in a game as they lost to host New York.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	8	2	.800	–
Miami	6	3	.667	1½
New York	6	3	.667	1½
Washington	4	4	.500	3
Philadelphia	4	5	.444	3½
Boston	3	5	.375	4
New Jersey	2	7	.222	5½
Central Division				
Indiana	7	3	.700	–
Atlanta	6	3	.667	½
Cleveland	5	3	.625	1
Milwaukee	5	3	.625	1
Detroit	4	6	.400	3
Toronto	3	5	.375	3
Charlotte	1	7	.125	5
Chicago	1	8	.111	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	8	1	.889	–
Minnesota	7	2	.778	1
Houston	6	4	.600	2½
San Antonio	5	5	.500	3½
Vancouver	3	6	.333	5
Dallas	2	8	.200	6½
Denver	1	8	.111	7
Pacific Division				
Seattle	7	2	.778	–
Portland	6	2	.750	½
L.A. Lakers	6	4	.600	1½
Phoenix	5	4	.556	2
Sacramento	5	4	.556	2
Golden State	4	6	.400	3½
L.A. Clippers	0	7	.000	6

Southampton boss to scrutinize Talasnikov

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Jan Talasnikov will be in the sights of Dave Jones, manager of English premier league club Southampton, when the international midfielder takes the field for Israel against Latvia at Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium tomorrow.

Talasnikov is one of a number of Israeli soccer players currently looking to make a move to Europe, and according to a source speaking to *The Jerusalem Post* on condition of anonymity, struggling Southampton are very interested in the Betar Jerusalem defensive midfielder, who has been a potential buy for them for a while.

Jones will be making a whirlwind visit and will take the opportunity to look at a number of Latvian players too, the source said.

Talasnikov has a good example to follow, Southampton was the starting point for Eyal Berkovic's English career three seasons ago before he moved to West Ham. Berkovic is likely to make another move at the end of this season after the *News of the World* reported on Sunday that he is "70 percent certain" of going to Liverpool where he will replace Steve McManaman, who is himself moving to Real Madrid in a multi-million dollar deal.

Other Israeli players with English hopes are Maccabi Haifa's Alon Harazi, who told the Hebrew press yesterday that if his side fail to beat Lokomotiv Moscow in the European Cup Winners' Cup next month, he will seek to go to relegation threatened Nottingham Forest, who are said to be very interested in him.

Hapoel Haifa's Najwan Grayeb is reportedly a target for Aston Villa who are looking for a left back. Villa's premiership title hopes took a serious knock on Sunday after they ended their away match with Wimbledon in a goalless draw.

The national team began preparations for the friendly with Latvia in Jerusalem yesterday without the in-form Avi Nimni, who is suffering from a stomach muscle strain. He has been allowed to rest by coach Shlomo Scharf. Of Israel's foreign contingent, only Haim Revivo will be available for the match which kicks off at 18:30 tomorrow with live coverage on Channel 24.

Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

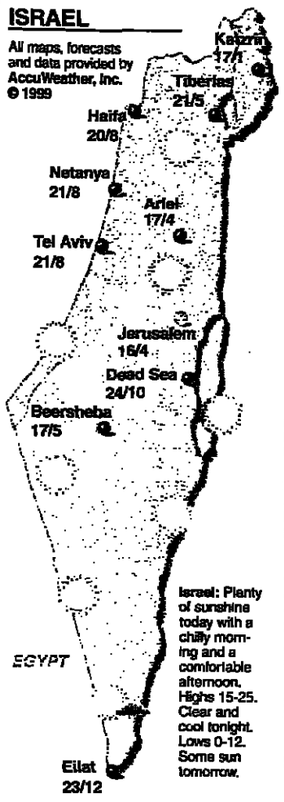
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THE WEATHER

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ISRAEL



Israel: Plenty of sunshine today with a chilly morning and a comfortable afternoon. Highs 15-25. Clear and cool tonight. Lows 0-12. Some sun tomorrow.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Wednesday High C/F	Wednesday Low/W C/F
Ariel	17/62	4/39/s	17/62	6/43/s
Beersheba	17/62	5/41/s	19/66	7/44/s
Dead Sea	24/75	10/50/s	24/75	10/50/s
Eilat	23/73	12/53/s	23/73	12/53/s
Haifa	20/68	8/46/s	20/68	10/50/s
Jerusalem	16/61	4/39/s	16/61	6/43/s
Kaziin	17/62	1/34/s	19/66	3/37/s
Netanya	21/70	8/46/s	21/70	10/50/s
Tel Aviv	21/70	8/46/s	23/73	10/50/s
Tiberias	21/70	5/41/s	21/70	7/44/s

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

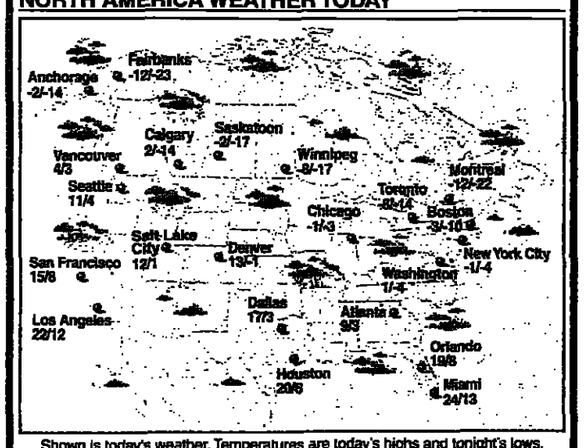
City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Wednesday High C/F	Wednesday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	4/39	-1/31/sn	5/41	0/32/pc
Beijing	14/57	5/41/pc	14/57	3/37/s
Berlin	2/35	-3/27/sf	-1/31	-6/22/c
Brussels	3/37	-1/31/c	4/39	1/34/pc
Cairo	21/70	8/46/s	23/73	10/50/s
Chicago	-1/31	-3/27/sn	1/34	-4/25/sf
Frankfurt	-1/31	-6/22/sn	-2/29	-9/16/c
Hong Kong	21/70	17/62/pc	22/71	18/64/pc
Johannesburg	28/82	17/62/pc	31/88	17/62/s
London	6/43	1/34/pc	6/43	1/34/c
Los Angeles	22/71	12/53/s	23/73	12/53/s
Madrid	14/57	4/39/c	13/55	2/35/sh
Mexico City	25/77	9/48/pc	20/68	6/43/c
Montreal	-12/11	-22/-7/pc	-10/15	-15/5/s
Moscow	-4/25	-6/22/sn	0/32	-7/20/sn
New York	-1/31	-4/25/s	0/32	-3/27/pc
Paris	6/43	6/32/c	4/39	-1/31/sn
Prague	1/34	-5/24/sn	-1/31	-6/22/sn
Rio de Janeiro	28/82	21/70/pc	28/82	23/73/pc
Rome	9/48	2/35/pc	11/52	5/41/pc
Sydney	24/75	18/64/pc	22/71	19/66/r
Tokyo	9/48	5/41/s	11/52	9/48/r
Toronto	-8/18	-14/7/pc	-8/22	-11/13/pc
Vienna	5/41	-2/29/sf	2/35	-4/25/sf
Warsaw	1/34	-3/27/sn	-3/27	-7/20/sn
Washington	1/34	-4/25/pc	3/37	-3/27/s
Zurich	-2/29	-6/22/sn	3/37	-1/31/c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

MOON PHASES

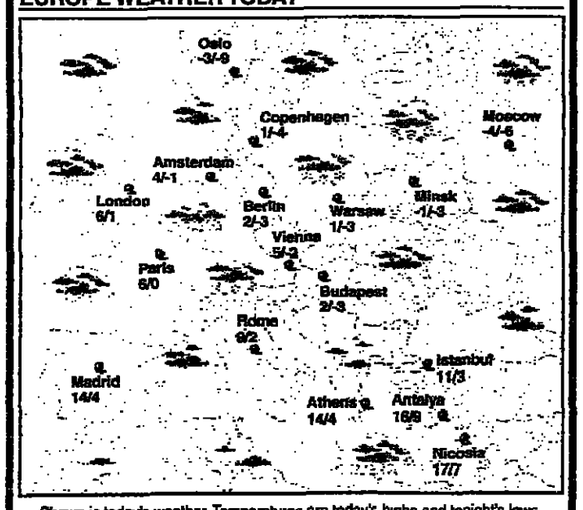
First	Full	Last	New
Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 17

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



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